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Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/186, in which the General Assembly requested information on its implementation with a view to convening, at the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly in 2012, a high-level meeting on strengthening efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in and have access to all aspects of development. The Assembly also requested information on best practices for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development efforts.[a] The present report examines progress made towards the integration of the disability perspective in development processes but notes that the rights and concerns of persons with disabilities remain to be integrated into mainstream development processes. The report also highlights opportunities to ensure the inclusion of disability in the global development agenda towards and beyond 2015.

[a] Selected examples of best practices at the national, regional and global levels in mainstreaming disability in development are periodically published and made available at the United Nations Enable website: www.un.org/disabilities/documents/mainstreaming_best_practices.doc.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/65/173), adopted resolution 65/186, in which it requested information with a view to convening at the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly, in 2012, a high-level meeting on strengthening efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in and have access to all aspects of development efforts.

2. As the final deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals draws near, the international community must, through all possible channels, ensure that disability is included in the Millennium Development Goals and in any development framework beyond 2015. The high-level meeting in 2012 will provide an invaluable opportunity to consider a global strategy towards 2015 and beyond for mainstreaming disability in the development agenda.

3. It is anticipated that new ideas and specific proposals should be formulated to advance the new United Nations development framework beyond 2015. Dialogue and consultations on a post-Millennium Development Goals framework will present the international community with critical opportunities to ensure the explicit inclusion of disability in any emerging development framework for 2015 and beyond.

4. As a result of the renewed efforts and globally concerted advocacy of multi-stakeholder partnerships that include Governments, the United Nations system, civil society and, in particular, organizations of persons with disabilities, the international community has increasingly recognized the nexus between disability and development and its socio-economic impact. Disability issues are gradually gaining visibility in the outcomes of global conferences and summits on international development.[1] Nonetheless, commitments should be translated into concrete actions. The rights and concerns of more than 1 billion persons with disabilities remain to be integrated into mainstream development processes.[2]

5. The present report provides an overview of the progress and challenges in promoting the inclusion of disability in internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The report also explores options for priorities and possible outcomes for the proposed high-level meeting in 2012.

[1] A series of United Nations development conferences since the 1990s and their follow-up present mixed results on disability inclusion. The outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (resolution 65/1) mentions disability and persons with disabilities.

[2] World Health Organization and World Bank, *World Report on Disability* (Geneva, 2011). Estimate based on 2010 population.

II. Overview of progress made in equality and empowerment of persons with disabilities in the context of the global development framework

A. Current status of disability mainstreaming in the international development framework

6. Mainstreaming disability in development is a strategy for achieving equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. Estimates indicate that over 1 billion people, or approximately 15 per cent of the world's population, are living with some form of disability.[2] Some 110 million to 190 million people, or 2 to 4 per cent of the world's population, live with significant disabilities. The evidence shows that persons with disabilities are more likely to experience adverse economic and social outcomes. There is an urgent need to transform development processes to be more inclusive, equitable and sustainable if the progress achieved is to benefit all members of society.

7. Research on the relationship between disability and development has continued to increase in recent years. Although the link between disability and poverty is nuanced, mainly as a result of a lack of adequate data, the multiple barriers facing persons with disabilities are understood and well documented. Empirical evidence from both developing and developed countries indicates that persons with disabilities experience poorer educational and labour market outcomes compared to those without disabilities, as well as higher rates of poverty.[2] The multiple barriers relating to the environment, institutions, attitudes, and information and communication need urgent redressing to ensure the inclusion in mainstream society of the millions of persons with disabilities currently at the periphery of development.

8. Historically, persons with disabilities have been largely overlooked in international development processes, including the Millennium Development Goals. Since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006, there has been renewed vigour to address the rights and concerns of persons with disabilities in society and development.[3]

9. Over the past decade, the General Assembly has reiterated its commitment to include the disability perspective[4] in the global development agenda, calling for urgent action in specific priority areas, such as the need for full and effective participation of persons with disabilities, building a knowledge base of disability data and facts and promoting accessibility of the built environment and of information and communications technology.

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[3] See the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I), especially paragraph (e) of the preamble and article 1.

[4] The General Assembly defined equality for persons with disabilities as parity of opportunities with those of the entire population. The term "disability perspective" is often used as an analytical tool by which the impact of disability on development processes and outcomes is analysed, monitored and evaluated. See the report of the Secretary-General concerning the third quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (A/52/351).

10. A key achievement was the inclusion of disability and persons with disabilities in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals at its sixty-fifth session.[5]

11. To ensure policy coherence between a post-2015 development framework and the current development frameworks, such as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action,[6] participation in the processes by all stakeholders, including the disability community, is crucial for future efforts towards inclusive development.

B. Mainstreaming of the disability perspective and empowerment of persons with disabilities in society and development

1. Emerging issues and trends

Strengthening national frameworks on disability through the implementation of the Convention

12. With over 100 ratifications of the Convention, more and more Governments are increasing their efforts and undertaking new initiatives for its implementation. Strategic frameworks for the advancement of persons with disabilities have been adopted in the context of domestic policies. Those efforts include exploring policy options for disability inclusion in the mainstream development agenda; promoting accessibility; empowering persons with disabilities; and building national capacities and institutional frameworks to incorporate the disability perspective at all levels of decision-making.

Promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships

13. Multi-stakeholder partnerships within and outside the United Nations system have explored the cross-sectionalities between disability and other issues, such as gender, child poverty, mental health, peace and security, and emergency and disaster management.[7] For example, there is growing recognition of disability and HIV/AIDS as an emerging issue. The Global Contact Group on AIDS and Disability, an informal multi-stakeholder partnership comprising United Nations agencies, civil society bodies and other development partners, was established with the intention of mainstreaming a disability perspective in HIV/AIDS advocacy and programming efforts at the international level. The Group promoted the inclusion of issues that affect persons with disabilities on the agenda of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, held in June 2011.

14. Within the United Nations system, the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, whose members represent 25

[5] In particular, goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) calls for special efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to productive employment and meet their nutritional needs through targeted and effective programming. Further information on the Millennium Development Goals is available from www.beta.undp.org/undp/en/home/mdgoverview.html.

[6] Adopted at the conclusion of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (9-13 May 2011, Istanbul, Turkey), available from www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ldc/home/conference.

[7] See www.un.org/disabilities.

United Nations bodies, has finalized its joint strategy and plan of action, which will support the implementation of the Convention on the ground.

15. Private-sector collaboration is fairly new in the promotion of disability-inclusive development and can play a vital role by ensuring that corporate social responsibilities include anti-discriminatory employment practices, training in marketable skills and support of business ventures and partnerships with persons with disabilities and their organizations.

16. Improved coordination among Governments, ministries, United Nations agencies, donors, national and international development organizations, civil society and other bodies could promote a holistic approach to mainstreaming disability in development.

17. For example, in response to the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, the Global Partnership for Disability and Development[8] established a working group to ensure the inclusion and involvement of persons with disabilities in reconstruction and community rehabilitation efforts in Haiti at all stages of the emergency management and reconstruction efforts. The working group developed a common strategy, established partnerships among interested parties, and coordinated advocacy efforts to ensure that all rebuilt and new infrastructure is fully accessible and barrier-free to persons with disabilities. A toolkit entitled "Haiti: reconstruction for all" was developed by the Global Partnership to help structure a more comprehensive approach to disaster management to ensure that long-term recovery is inclusive of persons with disabilities.[9]

2. Socio-economic aspects of disability

18. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes that disability is an evolving concept and that it results from interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their participation in society on an equal basis with others.[10] Addressing those barriers is often the most cost-effective way to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

19. As reported in the *World Report on Disability*, over 1 billion people currently live with some form of disability. That figure is expected to increase as the world's population is ageing at an unprecedented rate.[11] Studies suggest that the incidence of disability associated with obesity and other chronic illnesses is also on the rise within the working-age population.[12] The changing structure and condition of the global population requires society to address environmental accessibility through designs that provide reasonable adaptation in meeting the needs and capacities of all users.

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[8] See www.gpdd-online.org.

[9] Global Partnership for Disability and Development Working Group on Haiti Reconstruction, "Toolkit for long-term recovery: Haiti — reconstruction for all", 2010. Available from www.gpdd-online.org/media/news/toolkit_introduction.pdf.

[10] Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, paragraph (e) of the preamble.

[11] *World Report on Disability*.

[12] Jay Bhattacharya, Kavita Choudhry and Darius Lakdawalla, "Chronic disease and trends in severe disability in working age populations" TRENDS Working Paper Series, No. 05-4 (Ann Arbor, University of Michigan, 2005).

Economic costs

20. The exclusion of persons with disabilities results in significant costs to society.[13] Estimating disability-related loss in productivity and associated taxes is complex to measure. One such estimate using data from Canada showed that the loss of work through short- and long-term disability was 6.7 per cent of gross domestic product.[14]

21. Another example is the exclusion of children and adults with disabilities from access to education, which affects human capital formation and bears significant economic and social costs for society as a whole. The Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2010 states that disability is one of the least visible but one of the most potent factors in education marginalization.[15]

Social costs

22. At the individual level, social exclusion often contributes to further discrimination and renders persons with disabilities disproportionately likely to live in poverty. Removing physical, attitudinal and information barriers is critical and results in numerous benefits to individuals, including improved self-esteem, enhanced well-being and a stronger sense of empowerment. This, in turn, brings benefits to society as a whole, including greater social cohesion.

Investing in persons with disabilities

23. The costs of promoting accessibility and reasonable accommodation should be regarded as an investment in the future. The upfront costs involved in promoting accessibility should be weighed against the long-term benefits to all members of the society.

24. Investment in persons with disabilities is necessary not only to promote compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons and other relevant instruments, but also for the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, for all.

25. Access to employment is the most cost-effective method of reducing poverty among persons with disabilities, their families and their communities.[16] The majority of persons with disabilities can contribute to economic productivity once barriers to their participation are removed.[17] Similarly, in the education sector, efforts should be scaled up to reach out to the millions of children currently excluded from schools. Evidence suggests that inclusive education, adapted to meet the broad range of needs of children with disabilities, is generally more cost-effective and produces more meaningful results than educating them in segregated settings.

26. Additional opportunities for training in information and communications technology for young persons with disabilities should be promoted. As employment

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[13] International Labour Organization, *Disability and Poverty Reduction Strategies* (Geneva, 2002).

[14] *World Report on Disability*.

[15] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2010: Reaching the marginalized* (Paris, 2010).

[16] *Disability and Poverty Reduction Strategies*.

[17] *World Report on Disability*.

opportunities in the field of information and communications technology expand throughout the world, training and skills in this area can increase the scope for employment of persons with disabilities, providing an untapped supply of labour and leading to increased productivity and growth.

27. The mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in development, with a view to reducing costs and as an investment in the future, should focus on implementation through progressive realization of minimum standards on accessibility. Research shows that accessibility compliance is most cost-effective when taken into account in the initial stages of design and planning of new buildings.

28. Developing countries may draw upon experiences and best practices for lower-income countries to promote accessibility through innovative design and cost-effective strategies. While the cost of universal design could remain low with its incorporation in projects from the outset and local participation, the cost of failing to do so can be significant, taking into account human costs and opportunity costs incurred owing to inaccessibility.[18]

C. Progress towards the integration of the disability perspective and persons with disabilities into development policies and programmes

1. Member States[19]

Legislative measures

29. Member States provided examples of legislative protections for the rights of persons with disabilities. Some countries, such as Greece, underlined protection measures included in their national constitutions. Others noted the adoption of specific laws to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities. For example, in 2010, the Parliament of Guyana passed the Persons with Disability Act, which is guided by principles enshrined in the Convention. Burkina Faso passed the Law on the protection and promotion of disability rights; Cameroon passed the Law on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities; and Slovenia adopted the Act on equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in the light of the Convention and the Millennium Development Goals. Member States also reported on the adoption of legislation implementing the Convention. For example, Senegal adopted the Law of social orientation on the implementation of the Convention. Further information on legislative developments with regard to the Convention can be found in the reports of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto.

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[18] Harold Snider and Nazumi Takeda, "Design for all: implications for bank operations" (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2008). Available from http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DISABILITY/Resources/Universal_Design.pdf.

[19] Forty-one countries submitted their input in response to a note verbale from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat dated 15 March 2011: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Action plans and programmes

30. A number of Member States, including Ethiopia, Georgia, Indonesia, Lithuania, Mexico, Peru, Qatar, Slovakia, Thailand and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, have national strategies, plans or programmes related to development, social inclusion or human rights, focused on or specifically inclusive of persons with disabilities. Other Member States, such as Saudi Arabia, have specifically included persons with disabilities in national plans and programmes on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

31. Some Member States reported on the creation of bodies to oversee State efforts to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities. For example, Bosnia and Herzegovina established a council for persons with disabilities to promote cooperation among State and local institutions and associations of persons with disabilities. The Congo created a national committee for coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the national plan for persons with disabilities. The Syrian Arab Republic created a national committee to implement disability policies and strategies in the light of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

32. Several Member States reported on efforts to ensure accessibility in society. China reported on its efforts to ensure barrier-free facilities and services, including through the formulation of barrier-free-building regulations and the promotion of accessible network and communications technology.

33. A number of Member States, including Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States, reported strategies and initiatives to include disability in international cooperation and development assistance programmes, including through the funding of projects specifically intended to increase accessibility. Italy reported its adoption, in 2010, of guidelines for the mainstreaming of disability issues in the policies and activities of Italian cooperation, which contain recommendations to strengthen efforts to promote disability in the Italian development agenda. The United States reported the establishment, in 2010, of the Disability Inclusive Development Office to mainstream disability into the work of the United States Agency for International Development, including through the development of training and guidance tools on disability-inclusive development, and support disabled people's organizations. That plan is being implemented in 2011. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reported on its efforts to promote development and implementation of programmes and plans on care for persons with disabilities within the States members of Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América.

Strengthening the collection and analysis of data and statistics on disability

34. The General Assembly has accorded high priority to building a knowledge base of disability data and information to generate disability-sensitive development policies and processes. The collection and analysis of such data and statistics are crucial to the effective formulation and implementation of disability-inclusive policies and programmes, and in the monitoring and evaluation of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

35. Member States, including Argentina, Grenada, Mexico, Oman and the Philippines, reported on their collection of data regarding persons with disabilities on the basis of their national censuses. Italy, Lithuania and Poland also reported on

their collection of statistics on disability by means of data-collection processes focused on the labour force or health. Several countries, including the Philippines and Sweden, reported either the current application of or efforts under way to apply the World Health Organization (WHO) International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health framework for measuring disability.

36. Other Member States announced the development of new initiatives: Canada reported the launch, in 2010, of a new disability data strategy, and Spain noted the mainstreaming of disability indicators in all active population statistics gathered by its National Statistics Institute.

37. Several Member States provided examples of their efforts to integrate the disability perspective in the monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals. For example, Costa Rica reported on the creation, in 2011, of a national register on disability statistics, through which it seeks to create a statistical tool consistent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Building and strengthening global, regional and national networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships

38. Member States reported on a variety of efforts to build and strengthen global, regional and national networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships. Member States, including Jordan, Morocco, Turkey and Turkmenistan provided examples of their partnerships with United Nations agencies and/or regional bodies. Turkey reported on its partnership with the European Commission on a project intended to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy equal access to goods and services and the ability to contribute to society and the economy.

39. Several Member States provided examples of intergovernmental partnerships to address the situation of persons with disabilities. Guyana reported on extensive bilateral cooperation with Cuba on ophthalmological care, which allowed for immediate assistance while helping the country to develop capacity and sustainability over a specified time.

40. A number of Member States reported on partnerships with non-governmental organizations. In some cases, as reported by Andorra, Government consulting or monitoring bodies on disabilities had been composed of both ministry representatives and representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities.

2. United Nations system

41. To advance the mainstreaming of disability into the Millennium Development Goals, organizations of the United Nations system have undertaken initiatives and actions focused on mainstreaming disability.

Mainstreaming disability in development policies and practices

42. The Secretariat continued to provide forums for stakeholders to exchange ideas in the field of disability and development, with a view to mainstreaming disability in the Millennium Development Goals. To that end, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized a series of meetings and discussions in close collaboration and partnership with Governments, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, civil society and other stakeholders. The events were held in conjunction with sessions of the General Assembly, the Commission for Social

Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, among others, and with the annual commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

43. Most recently, during the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, held in New York in June 2011, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs collaborated with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other stakeholders for the AIDS and Disability Partners Forum,. Other meetings and events in 2010 and 2011 focused on issues such as the empowerment of persons with disabilities through sports,[20] the promotion and protection of the rights of children with disabilities,[21] and expanding education and employment opportunities for women and girls with disabilities.[22]

44. In 2010, the International Day focused on tools for making the Millennium Development Goals a reality for persons with disabilities. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized several events at United Nations Headquarters, including collaboration with WHO focusing on community-based rehabilitation and other tools to make the Millennium Development Goals a reality for persons with disabilities.

45. In cooperation with the United Nations Development Group and co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities developed a guidance note for United Nations country teams and implementing partners to facilitate the inclusion of disability issues in their areas of work.[23]

46. An interdepartmental task force on accessibility was established jointly by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to develop policy guidelines to accommodate the access needs of persons with disabilities and facilitate their participation in meetings, conferences and services on United Nations premises.

47. A report was prepared for the Human Rights Council on article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, entitled "Thematic study by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the role of international cooperation in support of national efforts for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities" (A/HRC/16/38). OHCHR subsequently promoted the messages contained in the study, including the need to mainstream disability rights more broadly and consistently in development cooperation. In 2010, OHCHR contributed to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals through high-level advocacy by the High Commissioner herself and dissemination of key messages, including on the rights of persons with disabilities.

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[20] On 27 June 2011, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized a panel discussion on the theme "Sports for inclusive development: sports, disability and development — key to empowerment of persons with disabilities and their communities".

[21] On 17 June 2011, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs co-organized an interactive panel discussion on the promotion and protection of the rights of children with disabilities.

[22] On 23 February 2011, during the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, a panel discussion on the theme "Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM): expanding opportunities for women and girls with disabilities in education and employment" was organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and partner organizations.

[23] See www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=1024.

48. During the forty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development, held in New York in February 2011, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission presented his report on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and discussed his planned activities to contribute to mainstreaming disability in development.

49. Organizations of the United Nations system reported new and ongoing efforts to mainstream disability issues within the work of their respective organizations. The United Nations Development Programme continued the development of communities of practice, where information is shared at the regional level among stakeholders with specific interests and expertise in disability issues. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is developing a global strategy on disability and inclusive development and finalizing guiding principles for its work. In January 2011, at UNICEF headquarters, a staff orientation was held to sensitize UNICEF staff on disability-related issues and the critical importance of mainstreaming those issues in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

50. A central element of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Disability Inclusion Initiative, launched in 2009, is enabling ILO staff members to address disability issues in their work. Among the efforts in this regard, an internal campaign entitled "Disability inclusion is everyone's work" is to be launched in 2011.

51. United Nations bodies also provided examples of mainstreaming efforts at the regional and national levels. In the European region, UNICEF and WHO supported the initiative "Better health, better lives: children and young people with intellectual disabilities and their families", which was launched in 2010 and among whose aims is to ensure that all children and young people with intellectual disabilities are fully participating members of society.

52. In the Republic of Moldova, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and its implementing partners advocated for the inclusion of a disability perspective in health plans and policy. In February 2011, in collaboration with relevant Government ministries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Mine Action Service conducted a meeting to discuss the process of ratification of the Convention.

Strengthening the collection and analysis of data and statistics on disability

53. During the third session of the Conference of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in September 2010, and in collaboration with other stakeholders, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized a side event on disability-inclusive monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. The panellists discussed the current status of disability data and steps towards effective formulation of disability-inclusive monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals.

54. In June 2011, WHO and the World Bank launched the *World Report on Disability*, which summarizes the current situation of persons with disabilities and offers guidance for policy and practices to help overcome exclusion. The report includes the first new prevalence estimates on disability since the 1970s and extensive recommendations on improving disability research and statistics.

55. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization published a methodological guide on the collection and analysis of education data concerning persons with disabilities for Latin America and the Caribbean.[24] The guide encourages harmonization of concepts, classifications and the methodological development necessary to ensure regionally comparable information.

56. The Asia-Pacific Regional Office of UNFPA supported country offices in conducting situation analyses on the extent to which women and girls with disabilities are excluded from reproductive health services and protection from violence. In 2010, a qualitative study and a literature review were conducted on that topic in the Solomon Islands and in India, respectively. UNFPA has been providing technical assistance in Kazakhstan and the Dominican Republic on reproductive health and family planning to build knowledge on disability issues.

57. To facilitate Asia-Pacific-wide knowledge sharing on disability, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) published "Disability at a glance 2010: a profile of 36 countries and areas in Asia and the Pacific", which includes country-by-country data on the population of persons with disabilities.[25] Between 2009 and 2011, ESCAP conducted training programmes and extensive testing of the question sets in a number of countries. The outcome of that endeavour contributed to the adoption in 2010 by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics of a specific question set for surveys, advancing the methodology for disability data collection.

58. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia collected and examined national statistics and policies related to the integration of persons with disabilities in public life and published the results in a report on proposed methods to combat poverty among persons with disabilities[26] and a working paper on practices fostering the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market.[27]

59. In September 2010, WHO and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs launched the report *Mental Health and Development: Targeting People with Mental Health Conditions as a Vulnerable Group*. The report uses the Convention to reinforce the need for development agendas to be inclusive of and accessible to persons with mental disabilities.

60. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) also reported on efforts to ensure accessibility of information to persons with disabilities. In June 2011, the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights agreed to move forward on an international instrument that would facilitate access to copyrighted works for visually impaired persons and others with print or reading disabilities.

Building and strengthening global and regional networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships

61. OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs are collaborating in the establishment of the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to mainstream disability in all aspects of society and development through capacity-building of national stakeholders.

[24] Available from http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001909/190974s.pdf.

[25] Available from www.unescap.org/sdd/publications/Disability/Disability-at-a-glance-2010.pdf.

[26] E/ESCWA/SDD/2011/IG.1/4 (Part I).

[27] E/ESCWA/SDD/2010/WP.4.

62. In 2010, the ILO Disability Team and the Bureau for Employers' Activities established the ILO Global Business and Disability Network, composed of 35 companies and with the purpose of knowledge sharing, development of joint products, such as an enhanced database of disability laws, strengthening of employers' networks and the linkage of companies and other groups to country-level ILO or other disability activities.

3. Civil society organizations

63. The International Disability and Development Consortium is a network of 23 international non-governmental organizations supporting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development efforts in over 100 countries. In Peru, the rural development non-governmental organization Arariwa has been operating a community-based rehabilitation project in several provinces of the Cusco region. Apart from specific services for children with disabilities, Arariwa mainstreams disability, resulting in the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their relatives in all types of poverty reduction projects. The project has been instrumental in the formation and empowerment of at least five rural organizations of persons with disabilities.

64. Global networks of civil society organizations often help national non-governmental organizations to work along with their Governments to develop national policies that are inclusive of persons with disabilities. In Togo, the disability movement was involved in the development of the first poverty reduction strategy paper (2009-2011). The Togolese Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FETAPH), with support from CBM (Christian Blind Mission) and Handicap International, was active in advancing the rights of excluded and discriminated groups in the recent national poverty reduction strategy process. Furthermore, all actors in the process became aware of the importance of the Convention and the need for inclusive policies and action.

65. Following Cyclone Nargis in 2008, CBM supported the emergency response programme of its key partner in Myanmar, the Leprosy Mission Myanmar, to include persons with disabilities in the humanitarian response. This led to ongoing collaboration to support disability rehabilitation centres for persons with disabilities and the creation in 2010 of a community-based rehabilitation and disability and inclusive development project in 120 locations over three years.

4. Multi-stakeholder partnerships

66. In collaboration with the World Bank, the Global Partnership for Disability and Development organized the International Forum for Development Partners on Disability and Development in September 2010 in Brussels. The event brought together development partners, including representatives and disability focal points from Government donor agencies, United Nations bodies, multilateral organizations and private foundations interested in or currently working on disability issues and inclusive development, to share experiences and help increase donor coordination and collaboration.

67. The *Community-Based Rehabilitation Guidelines*, launched in 2010 in Abuja, were developed in association with ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the International Disability and Development Consortium. The Second Continental Congress on Community-based Rehabilitation was held in Oaxaca, Mexico, in March 2010. The

Congress was jointly organized by the Pan American Health Organization, UNICEF, WHO, the Community-based Rehabilitation Network of the Americas and the Caribbean, the National Agency for Family Development (DIF), the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS), Piña Palmera, CBM and the municipal government of Oaxaca. More than 550 participants from 17 Latin American countries took part in the Congress, including persons with disabilities and their organizations. The participants produced the Oaxaca Manifesto, which calls upon States to include persons with disabilities in the development of their communities and societies by implementing the Convention and promoting the use of community-based rehabilitation in public policies.

III. Strategic framework for reinforcing the disability perspective in the global development agenda

68. During the past two decades, a series of United Nations global development conferences, summits and their follow-up have been held.[28] In the outcome documents and policy commitments and recommendations resulting from those conferences, persons with disabilities and the impact of disability on overall development and its processes have been largely overlooked. When references are made to disability or persons with disabilities, it is often within the context of a long list of vulnerable groups requiring care, as well as protection issues.[29] Only a few outcome documents, such as the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, have focused on developmental approaches to the advancement of persons with disabilities.

69. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities reinforces the overarching principles and goals promoted in the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. From the inception of the Convention to its adoption, the General Assembly expressed the view that equality of persons with disabilities must be achieved with and through their full participation in development as both agents and beneficiaries.

Key priority areas for strategic action for disability-inclusive development

1. Equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and development

70. The General Assembly has defined accessibility as the means and goal for disability-inclusive development. In its resolution 64/131, the Assembly encouraged Governments to accelerate the exchange of information, guidelines and standards, best practices, legislative measures and Government policies regarding the situation of persons with disabilities, in particular as they relate to inclusion and accessibility.

[28] See www.un.org/en/development/devagenda/UNDA1.pdf.

[29] The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation views persons with disabilities as members of a vulnerable group of society, which requires protection from debilitating diseases and special care for causes of ill health, including environmental causes.

71. Policy measures by Governments to ensure disability-inclusive action, taking into consideration resource constraints, could focus on the three areas of accessibility:

(a) Promoting environmental accessibility with reasonable adaptation, in both the physical environment and in the field of information and communications technology;

(b) Providing appropriate and accessible social services and social protection that ensure a minimum of well-being for all;

(c) Encouraging and developing participatory, democratic and accountable institutions that promote fundamental freedoms for all.

2. Collection, analysis and use of disability data and statistics

72. In the past three years, the General Assembly, through its resolutions 63/150, 64/154 and 65/186, has emphasized the urgent need to strengthen the collection and compilation of national data on the situation of persons with disabilities. The emphasis was on following existing guidelines on disability statistics to enable development policy planning, monitoring, evaluation and implementation to be disability-sensitive, in particular in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

73. Despite the obvious requirement for the collection of disability data, the paucity of data on disability and inconsistencies in methodology used to measure disability continue to be an obstacle in promoting disability-inclusive development. The challenge is greatest in developing countries, where both the availability and use of disability data and statistics remain particularly limited.

74. The report to the General Assembly (A/65/173) provided comprehensive and detailed options for strategic action on the development and use of disability statistics in support of inclusive monitoring and evaluation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It strongly supports the inclusion of disability in national censuses using the internationally agreed guidelines for measuring and collecting disability data.

75. Argentina and some other countries have introduced disability-specific indicators into their Millennium Development Goals monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Such an innovative approach, situating disability indicators within an existing framework for monitoring and evaluating development progress, could be a cost-effective way of narrowing the gap between the social and economic status of persons with disabilities and that of the overall population.

76. At the same time, the caveats and limitations of disability data collection within a census are evident. Hence, supplementary sources of data, such as sample surveys and administrative registers, should be fully utilized to meet many data requirements for meaningful evaluation of the impact of disability on development policy and programmes and on persons with disabilities. It has been observed that persons with disabilities are less likely to be involved in national surveys because their disabilities may cause them to be disregarded; for example, people who are deaf would not generally be able to participate unless sign language is used.

3. Capacity-building of stakeholders

77. The inclusion of a disability perspective in development strategies requires enhanced capacity-building of stakeholders at all levels, including organizations of persons with disabilities, to maximize their participation in development activities, and planners and programmers at national, regional and international levels, including within the United Nations system. Increased attention should be devoted to the empowerment of organizations of persons with disabilities and the training of representatives of governmental and intergovernmental bodies. In this regard, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and OHCHR, conducted a capacity development workshop in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2010. Representatives of Governments, intergovernmental bodies, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations participated in the workshop sessions on disability mainstreaming, accessibility and inclusive planning, focusing on the implementation of the Convention in the Caribbean subregion.

4. Promoting international development cooperation

78. The report to the Commission for Social Development on mainstreaming disability in the development agenda (E/CN.5/2010/6) discussed the status of disability inclusion in international development cooperation at the global, regional and subregional levels. The report reviewed different forms and levels of mainstreaming disability in development cooperation. Some of the established frameworks for promoting disability inclusion in development cooperation are outlined below.

79. Within the United Nations system, there has been progress in development cooperation policies and procedures at both the policy and operational levels. This includes the two principal functions mandated in 2005 to contribute to the work of the Economic and Social Council: the biennial Development Cooperation Forum and the annual ministerial review. The Forum reviews trends and progress in international development cooperation and promotes greater coherence and effectiveness among the development activities of different development partners. The annual ministerial review is tasked with assessing the progress made towards the Millennium Development Goals and other goals and targets of the United Nations development agenda.

80. In addition, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the common strategic framework for United Nations operational activities at the country level, can play a significant role in helping Member States to include disability into the overall national framework for development. In October 2010, the United Nations Development Group endorsed a guidance note to support United Nations country team action and to facilitate the inclusion of disability issues in the common country programming process.

81. Also within the United Nations normative framework for operational activities, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review establishes key system-wide policy guidelines for development cooperation and the functioning of the resident coordinator system (country-level modalities for the United Nations system). Each review focuses on emerging issues, in addition to traditional thematic issues requested by the Economic and Social Council in follow-up resolutions. In this context, disability should be highlighted as a cross-cutting issue to be addressed in

the quadrennial review to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to disability mainstreaming in the framework of the United Nations operational system at the country level.

82. Beyond the United Nations system, existing frameworks at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels should be fully utilized to include disability in development cooperation. At the multilateral level, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank have made notable contributions to international development programming to raise awareness, build capacity and issue policy guidelines for addressing disability issues effectively at the national, regional and subregional levels.

83. Regional decades focused on disability and their corresponding frameworks have addressed the issue of mainstreaming disability in development. However, most of those initiatives are still ongoing and it is too early to report on the results. A third Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons is currently being planned by the regional membership.

84. The framework for mainstreaming disability in development cooperation has expanded to include South-South and interregional initiatives. There are cooperative efforts between China and Asian and African countries and between Brazil, Mexico and other members of the Organization of American States. Trilateral cooperation among Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and other ASEAN countries has also been evolving.

85. Recent bilateral initiatives provide good examples of mainstreaming disability in development cooperation, including initiatives by the Australian Agency for International Development. In March 2011, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation held a seminar in collaboration with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Disability to review strategies for mainstreaming disability in development cooperation.

5. Building on existing mechanisms and networks for disability-inclusive development

86. The disability community is increasingly building partnerships with stakeholders from other human rights and development spheres. The Global Partnership for Disability and Development is an example of such an effort, where a multi-stakeholder partnership is contributing to the advancement of persons with disabilities through the sharing of resources and knowledge at global, regional and national levels. The Global Partnership has also demonstrated how multi-stakeholder partnerships can help Governments, international organizations and civil society in the planning and implementation of development policies to ensure inclusion of the concerns of persons with disabilities.[30]

87. At the regional level, experience suggests that some regions are more advanced than others in incorporating the disability perspective by mobilizing

[30] "Toolkit for long-term recovery: Haiti — reconstruction for all" (see footnote 9).

regional expertise, tools and other resources in implementing disability norms and standards.[31]

88. At the national level, grass-roots organizations of disabled persons can build alliances with mainstream sectors with experience in advocacy on employment, housing, health and other issues. Such alliances have the potential to facilitate the inclusion of disability issues in mainstream agendas.

IV. The way forward: promoting a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond

89. There is a clearer recognition that disability is a cross-cutting issue that affects all aspects of economic and social development. However, persons with disabilities continue to experience adverse social and economic outcomes and remain disproportionately represented among the world's poor.[32]

90. The following section provides recommendations for action for (a) inclusion of disability in the Millennium Development Goals and their implementing policies, programmes, monitoring and evaluation frameworks; (b) inclusion of disability in the post-Millennium Development Goals development framework; and (c) preparatory steps for an international conference on disability and development in 2015, through which the international community could develop the development agenda within the post-2015 development context.

91. Furthermore, options are discussed below for a high-level meeting on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly (see resolution 65/186).

V. Recommendations

92. The General Assembly may wish to consider the following recommendations:

(a) In the course of pursuing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals until 2015, the international community should intensify its efforts to include disability in the existing Millennium Development Goals through strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships; mainstreaming disability into international cooperation; and developing the evidence base on the situation of persons with disabilities for effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development goals;

(b) It is critical that Governments and the United Nations system should assess the impact of all policies and programmes related to the Millennium Development Goals on persons with disabilities. Available disability-specific indicators should be used, as appropriate, to fill existing data gaps regarding the economic and social situation of persons with disabilities, in the context of current monitoring and evaluation of the Goals;

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[31] The countries that constitute the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) have established a working group on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in relation to disability-inclusive development.

[32] *World Report on Disability*.

(c) Persons with disabilities should take an active role in all relevant discussions at the global, regional, national and local levels. In particular, as the international community begins discussions on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, upcoming consultations will provide a platform to integrate the disability perspective in any emerging framework. Therefore, in all preparatory processes leading to a post-2015 development framework, Governments and the United Nations system should facilitate the active participation of persons with disabilities;

(d) Governments and all stakeholders should enhance linkages between disability and sustainable development discourse within the context of the three pillars, economic, social and environmental. The inclusion of disability and persons with disabilities, specifically in the social pillar, will strengthen efforts at all levels to promote sustainable development.

93. The General Assembly may also wish to consider the following specific actions towards 2015:

(a) An international conference on disability and development could be organized in 2015 to bring together key stakeholders to review progress and achievements under the Millennium Development Goals and to develop strategies and establish key priorities for post-Millennium Development Goals development efforts, with a view to adopting a global plan of action for disability;

(b) Preparation for such a global conference should be based on the outcomes of prior consultations at regional and subregional levels. Such regional and subregional meetings could be held to provide input to a global plan of action and guidelines for mainstreaming disability in the global development agenda.

94. The General Assembly may further wish to consider the following options for a high-level meeting on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

95. The proposed high-level meeting could include one or more of the following outcomes:

(a) Road map for maximizing achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities in the years remaining before the final deadline in 2015;

(b) Plan of action to include disability as a cross-cutting issue in a post-2015 international development framework;

(c) Decision to organize a global conference in 2015 and an outline of preparatory steps for such a conference, including regional and subregional meetings.

96. In considering these options, the General Assembly may wish:

(a) To promote the implementation of the international disability architecture,[33] consisting of both human rights and development instruments,

[33] See A/63/183. The international disability architecture includes the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, together with other international norms and standards relating to disability.

including by calling for wider signature of, accession to and ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto;

(b) To facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations in all preparatory processes leading to a post-2015 development framework, as well as in ongoing development processes and conferences such as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to ensure the inclusion of the disability perspective;

(c) To establish clear, achievable goals and measurable targets and indicators for action for disability-inclusive implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals and for the design of related policies, their implementation, evaluation and monitoring;

(d) To commit adequate resources for the collection and analysis of data and statistics on the economic and social development situation of persons with disabilities as related to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals;

(e) To promote multi-stakeholder partnerships, including through international cooperation, for concrete action towards improving accessibility to information and communications technology and physical environments and mainstreaming disability in development cooperation;

(f) To ensure that particular attention is given to persons with intellectual disabilities; persons with psychosocial disabilities; blind-deaf persons; women and children with disabilities and persons with multiple disabilities in all preparatory processes to develop a disability-inclusive framework towards 2015 and beyond.

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International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 64/134 on the proclamation of 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. The report highlights key activities and initiatives undertaken by Member States, civil society organizations and United Nations entities in support of the year. It also describes the activities and initiatives of Member States against the backdrop of the year, efforts to put a youth agenda on the calendar and national development activities that were undertaken within the context of the year. Recommendations for Member States and the United Nations system in order to sustain and capitalize on the momentum generated during the International Year of Youth are provided in the concluding section of the report.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 64/134, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit, to its sixty-sixth session, a report on the activities and initiatives carried out during the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

2. The report, which provides a comprehensive summary of the activities and initiatives carried out by Governments, civil society organizations, individuals and communities worldwide to support local and international activities marking the International Year of Youth, is based on contributions from Member States,[1] civil society organizations[2] and United Nations entities.[3] The first section of the report provides the background to the year and the following sections provide an overview of the national, regional, and international activities and initiatives undertaken to commemorate it. The report also highlights some of the activities organized by civil society organizations and entities of the United Nations system and sets forth recommendations for Member States and United Nations entities with a view to sustaining and capitalizing on the momentum generated during the year.

II. Background

3. The International Year of Youth was first celebrated by the United Nations in 1985. A decade later, in resolution 50/81, the General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which established a policy framework and guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people. While this programme is still active, in recent years there has been an even greater recognition that young people are central to the global development agenda. At key international forums such as the General Assembly, the Commission on Social Development, the African Union and the Ibero-American Conferences of Heads of State and Government Member States have reaffirmed that support for the development of youth is an important means for realizing internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Prior to the declaration of the International Year of Youth, Member States had already promoted several regional and national agendas devoted to young people, for example, the Year of African Youth and the Ibero-American Youth Year (both held in 2008), the Year of Youth in the Russian Federation (2009), and the Decade on African Youth Development (2009-2018) declared by the African Union.

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[1] Austria, China, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Peru, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago and Uzbekistan.

[2] European Youth Forum, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Peace Child International and Restless Development.

[3] Department of Public Information, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Capital Development Fund, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Alliance of Civilizations, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Volunteers and World Tourism Organization.

4. Building on this momentum, in December 2009, the General Assembly adopted its resolution 64/134 proclaiming the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, to commence on 12 August 2010. The proclamation of the year, at the initiative of Tunisia, represented the renewed commitment of Member States to ensuring that young men and women are at the core of the development agenda. At present, there are more than 1.2 billion people worldwide between the ages of 15 and 24, representing some 18 per cent of the world's population. The proclamation of the International Year of Youth has thus presented a strategic opportunity both to raise awareness about the challenges and opportunities facing a very important population group and to advocate for young people's rights.

5. Within this context, the theme of the year, "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding", promoted communication across generations, cultures, religions and civilizations and championed the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and solidarity. Member States, youth organizations, civil society groups and young people were encouraged to celebrate the year by holding activities to showcase the contributions of youth to development, promote mutual understanding and underscore the benefits of their participation in all aspects of society.

III. Activities and initiatives organized by Member States at the national level

A. Contextualizing the initiatives of Member States: the International Year of Youth as background and catalyst

6. International years are customarily celebrated at the national level, and tend to be steered by national committees, usually comprised of appropriate Government entities such as ministries of youth or ministries of education, national youth councils, civil society organizations, representatives of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders. Member States were encouraged to hold events in celebration of the International Year of Youth and to review their national youth development policies and programmes. Supporters of the year aimed to utilize it as a catalyst for the fuller implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, to increase young people's participation in society and to broaden their access to opportunities.

7. In this context, as at 6 July 2011, Member States, civil society groups and United Nations entities have organized 354 events to mark the year, ranging from conferences, forums, camps, exhibitions, competitions (such as sports, writing, photography, art), film screenings, concerts and training workshops, to intergenerational conferences, model United Nations conferences, youth summits, festivals, online and offline courses on youth-related issues and community-service projects.[4] These activities focused on key topics such as the environment, HIV and AIDS and youth participation and empowerment.

8. The support and participation of Member States was noteworthy. The launch of the International Year of Youth on 12 August 2010 was celebrated in all regions.

[4] All events were posted on the International Year of Youth online calendar, maintained by the Programme on Youth run by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (see http://social.un.org/absolutewc/).

In 29 countries, namely, Austria, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Romania, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda and Zambia, special events were held to mark the launch.

9. Over the course of the year, Member States undertook numerous initiatives to highlight the contribution of young people to society and to address current issues affecting them. Some of these activities are enumerated below, categorized by priority theme and type of initiative.

B. Putting a youth agenda on the calendar

10. The International Year of Youth provided Member States with an opportunity to put youth issues on the calendar. To that end, China proclaimed 2011 as the "European Union-China Year of Youth", with the twofold objective of promoting intercultural dialogue and strengthening mutual understanding and friendship between European and Chinese youth. In Kenya, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports celebrated National Youth Week. In Qatar, the Department of Youth Activities and Events of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage celebrated International Youth Day under the theme "Dialogue and culture".

C. Forums, conferences, awards and competitions

11. Governments worldwide supported a wide array of youth events that raised the profile of youth issues. In China, celebrations of International Peace Day focused on the theme, "Chinese development for youth and peace". At the World Expo in Shanghai, a youth forum was held on youth, cities and the future, including the involvement of many leading Chinese youth groups. In addition, a large-scale sporting event, "Building bridges for friendship", was organized in Shenzhen.

12. In Indonesia, the Ministry of Youth and Sports led several initiatives. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) University Student Conference, held in Bandung from 21 to 24 March 2010, identified the role of youth in preserving cultural heritage. The Asia-Africa Youth Forum, held in Bandung from 23 to 27 August 2010, constituted a strategic opportunity for young people to raise their voices and promote their ideas on the Millennium Development Goals. The Bandung Games, held in Kuala Lumpur from 29 April to 2 May 2011, was a bilateral youth sports forum that brought together some 800 Indonesian and Malaysian students in friendly competition.

13. In Oman, the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development was organized by the Education Ministry, in cooperation with UNESCO. In Peru, within the context of the International Year of Youth, the National Youth Secretariat held a meeting of youth from 17 different regions to propose strategies for increased youth participation in addressing key issues such as pregnancy and alcohol and drug use among youth, as well as the question of access to education.

14. The Ministry of Sport, Tourism and Youth Policy of the Russian Federation reported on activities organized by youth organizations and civil society for the year, including the international meeting on "The assembly of the generations: the

world of peace and non-violence", as well as a conference entitled, "International and interregional cooperation on youth and the experience of countries in working with teenagers and youth" and the international project, "We are the future of the Commonwealth of Independent States" within the framework of the International Youth Forum.

15. The Youth Division of the Ministry of Social Development in Saint Kitts and Nevis implemented a monthly award for young people for outstanding work in commemoration of the year. In Togo, the first national Youth Forum, held from 18 to 20 April 2011, brought together more than 750 young people from all prefectures in order to encourage dialogue and understanding among youth populations and to increase their participation in decision-making processes.

D. Member State initiatives: putting the International Year of Youth into practice

16. The theme of the year informed the initiatives of several Member States. The National Centre for Youth Development of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture of Jamaica incorporated the theme of the year into its programmes for 2010. To commemorate the national Youth Month, celebrated each year in November, the Government held activities dedicated to showcasing "dialogue and mutual understanding" as a crucial facet of youth development. The Government of Thailand took various initiatives within the ambit of this theme, including camps and programmes to bring youth from diverse backgrounds together into a common forum for dialogue.

17. The theme of the International Year of Youth was addressed by Member States within their own specific contexts. In post-conflict Sri Lanka, the year provided a key opportunity to promote the ideals of peace, solidarity and harmony among the country's younger generation. As a result, the national activities organized to commemorate the year fed into the country's reconciliation process. In Austria, the theme of dialogue and mutual understanding was explored through various initiatives, inter alia, a symposium organized on 20 September 2010 by the Austrian League for Human Rights, which brought together experts and young people to discuss increasing group-focused hostility affecting all members of society, including youth populations.

18. Some Member States took advantage of the International Year of Youth to reaffirm their commitment to youth development. In Indonesia, the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs reaffirmed its pledge to develop strong partnerships to increase investment in youth, and to encourage youth-led contributions to society. The Government of Sri Lanka initiated a series of events to renew the country's focus on youth and youth-related issues. Another notable trend was the increased support provided by Governments to youth organizations. For instance, in Austria, as part of the youth policy, financial support was provided to youth organizations, youth initiatives, youth clubs and youth projects.

19. Some countries launched special initiatives in keeping with the International Year of Youth. In Portugal, the Government established a National Monitoring Commission for the International Year of Youth. Under the presidency of the Portuguese Institute for Youth, the Commission is responsible for the coordination of national activities carried out by public institutions and civil society

organizations in relation to the year. The Commission raises awareness, not only about the year, but also about the rights of young people. Its aim is to strengthen youth participation, increase investment related to youth and mainstream the country's youth policies. In Serbia, the Ministry of Youth and Sports inaugurated the "The Youth are the Law" programme to encourage and increase social activism. In addition to marking the year with events, the programme has included several major initiatives: the drafting of the Law on Youth, which has involved the holding of more than 80 round tables, totalling 2,895 participants, most of whom were young people and/or experts in dealing with youth issues; marking of the European Year of Volunteering and the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers in 2011; assistance to young people to carry on dialogue with their peers across the region and throughout the globe; the organization of an international conference on the democratic participation of youth; and the establishment of contact with and the signing of protocols of cooperation between the Governments of Portugal, Slovakia and Ukraine in the field of youth cooperation.

E. Addressing national development in the context of the International Year of Youth

20. The International Year of Youth has spurred Governments to focus on specific youth-related programmes targeting broader national development priorities. According to recent ILO estimates, global youth unemployment of the world's 620 million economically active youth between the ages of 15 and 24 reached a historical peak of 81 million by the end of 2009. In general, young people tend to work longer hours under informal, intermittent and insecure work arrangements, characterized by low productivity, low earnings and reduced social protection. Recognizing the centrality of adequate conditions of youth employment to the development and well-being of youth, Member States have undertaken measures to bolster the conditions of work and opportunities for youth employment. The Government of Togo, for example, has conducted training programmes for unemployed youth and has implemented a national volunteer programme to allow unemployed graduates to gain professional experience. It will also offer professional opportunities to young people through its programme of support for the integration and the development of job opportunities.

21. In some Member States, young people who demonstrated interest in environmental issues were invited to participate actively in advocacy, national adaptation and mitigation actions and international negotiations on climate change. In Trinidad and Tobago, the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs ran programmes on environmental issues. For example, "My Country, My Community, My Space" was a programme that encouraged youth to protect the environment from degradation.

22. Against the backdrop of the International Year of Youth, Member States also led efforts to protect young people against discrimination and developed affirmative action programmes. For instance, three nationwide projects implemented in Austria in 2010 and 2011 focused on young people from immigrant backgrounds, in particular, affirmative action for Muslim women and girls (project "Fatima") and young Muslim men (project "Mustafa"). Another project focused on the training of mentors to carry out these new programmes (project "Heroes"). In Peru, the National Youth Secretariat promoted the creation of a forum for the empowerment of rural, indigenous and Afro-descendent youth to promote the implementation,

monitoring and evaluation of public policies aimed at this segment of society. Peru also initiated programmes for young people between the ages of 18 and 29 who were incarcerated, aimed at improving their quality of life and facilitating their reintegration into society.

23. Member States reported on progress throughout the year in addressing the concerns and widening the opportunities for young people within their countries. In Jordan, the Higher Council for Youth formulated policies regarding the Council's work during the 2010-2015 period, 42 of which focus on youth. A national strategy for youth 2011-2015 has been put in place, and the design of the second phase of the strategy, which commences in early 2011, is already under way. In Uzbekistan, the Forum of Culture and Arts of Uzbekistan Foundation has been working in line with the principles of the year. The Kelajak ovozi (voice of the future) Youth Initiatives Centre, the youth arm of the Forum, was founded in 2006, and has since become the leading Uzbekistan youth organization. The Centre works on themes such as education, culture and arts and information technology, and supports youth organizations. On 12 August 2010, on the International Youth Day, the United Nations Information Centre and UNFPA named the Kelajak ovozi Centre the best youth project.

24. The International Year of Youth gave some Member States an occasion to consider youth issues at the highest levels of Government. On 4 April 2011, the House of Lords of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland held a debate on youth and international development. This debate, the first of its kind in the House of Lords, provided members of the House with the chance to scrutinize the Government's policies for supporting young people in the many challenges that they face, especially in developing countries.

IV. Activities and initiatives organized by inter-State entities at the regional level

25. The African Union[5] has made youth issues a priority. In commemoration of African Youth Day and the International Year of Youth, the African Union and its partners brought together over 300 youth from Ethiopia in a celebration officially opened by the President of the country. At the event, young people advocated increased youth participation in all aspects of African society. At the African Union pre-summit on youth, held from 1 to 9 April 2011 in Addis Ababa, the role of the year in making African youth a high priority on the agenda was recognized.

26. The Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government took place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 23 June to 1 July 2011. During the Summit, at a debate on "Accelerating youth empowerment for sustainable development", it was noted that the International Year of Youth was a platform for mobilizing African youth to constructive participation.

[5] Input from the African Union was received through UNICEF.

V. Activities and initiatives organized at the international level

27. The International Year of Youth was launched at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 12 August 2010 by the Secretary-General. Statements were made by the Minister of Youth, Sports and Physical Education of Tunisia, Samir Laabidi, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations, Jean-Francis Zinsou, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Sha Zukang, the Special Representative to the United Nations and Director of the International Labour Organization Office for the United Nations, Jane Stewart, the Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator of United States Agency for International Development, Michael Yates, the youth representative from Pax Romana, Maya Saoud, and the United Nations Youth Champion, Monique Coleman. In commemoration of the launch of the year, a joint statement was issued by heads of United Nations entities. The Secretary-General, UNESCO, ILO, UN-HABITAT, the World Assembly of Youth and the National Youth Council of Namibia also issued statements for the launch.

28. As a highlight of the International Year of Youth, the General Assembly decided to organize a United Nations high-level meeting on youth, as mandated by the Assembly in resolution 64/134. The high-level meeting is scheduled to take place on 25 and 26 July 2011 in New York at United Nations Headquarters.

29. Other major international events included the fifth World Youth Congress, held in Turkey from 31 July to 12 August 2010, hosted by Peace Child International in partnership with the E-Gençlik Association, the Istanbul Youth Assembly and the Turkish Ministry of Youth and Sports. An offshoot of the fifth Youth Congress was the South Asian Youth Congress under the leadership of the Blue Ribbon Movement, a regional youth conference that has adopted the theme "Peace, dialogue and mutual understanding for the International Year of Youth".

30. The World Youth Conference, organized by the Government of Mexico, was held in Mexico City from 24 to 27 August 2010. The conference was organized by the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, the Public Education Secretariat and the Mexican Youth Institute, with the support of UNFPA, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The conference brought together representatives of Governments and civil society organizations to identify youth-related priorities for inclusion in the international development agenda beyond the Millennium Development Goals. The Guanajuato Declaration embodies the outcomes of this conference.[6]

31. Young people's interest in sport provides an entry point for promoting international development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals, and for communicating values that foster peace and cooperation. In this light, the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore were held from 14 to 26 August 2010, to inspire youth, both as participants and observers, to embrace, embody and express the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect.

[6] Available at: http://www.c-fam.org/docLib/20100908_declaracion_guanajuato_ing-1.pdf.

VI. Activities and initiatives organized by civil society

32. Civil society organizations were major contributors to the success of the International Year of Youth. Countless civil society initiatives associated with a wide spectrum of youth issues were organized in the following countries: Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Martinique, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

33. Among global organizations, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts reported that activities for the year were recommended for action at regional committee meetings and regional conferences in each of the five regions of the Association (African, Arab, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Western Hemisphere regions). To commemorate the year and 100 years of international girl guiding and girl scouting, the Association hosted three consecutive world forums for young women. The aim of the forums was to foster dialogue and mutual understanding, create awareness of issues relevant to girls and young women around the world, mobilize and engage young women from all 145 countries members of the Association in advocacy and connect young delegates from around the world. The Association also produced an advocacy brochure focused on the year, called "Ten million girls … one voice".

34. Among regional umbrella youth organizations, the European Youth Forum marked International Youth Day and the launch of the year with the Belgian Youth Council, within the framework of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union. Under the auspices of the year, the European Youth Forum also partnered the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Spanish Government and the Spanish Youth Council in organizing the eleventh edition of the University on Youth and Development, held in Molina, Spain, from 12 to 19 September 2010. The European Youth Forum dedicated a special edition of its magazine, YO! (Youth Opinion), to the United Nations. This special edition was produced in collaboration with UNFPA and focused on the International Year of Youth and youth initiatives at the United Nations.

35. Peace Child International contributed to the theme of the Year by promoting performances of its inter-faith musical, "Peace Child — Alpha Omega" in the United Kingdom, Estonia and Turkey. Peace Child International, along with TakingITGlobal, Global Kids (USA), Young People We Care (Ghana), Be the Change Academy (Kenya), United Games (Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Serbia, Hungary), KULtiger (Germany), Felt Agency (the Netherlands), Blue Ribbon Movement (India), CYCAN (China), ECO-Singapore, Junior Conservancy (Mexico), OASIS (Brazil) and Peace Child (Argentina), all worked throughout the

Year to mobilize youth support for the Earth Summit to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012.

VII. Activities and initiatives organized by United Nations entities

The United Nations Framework Approach for the International Year of Youth

36. The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development is the global mechanism of cooperation on matters related to youth development within the United Nations system. The Network aims to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the United Nations in youth development at the global, regional and country levels. The Network coordinated the activities for the International Year of Youth through the focal point on youth (also known as the programme on youth) within the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. At the annual meeting, held at UNESCO headquarters in February 2010, the members of the Network developed the United Nations framework approach for the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. The approach set strategic objectives and established the guiding framework for the year: (a) to create awareness: increase commitment and investment in youth, (b) to mobilize and engage: increase youth participation and partnerships, and (c) to connect and build bridges: increase intercultural understanding among youth. The approach will continue to underpin efforts in youth development, including the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth.

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

37. On behalf of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, the focal point on youth within the Division for Social Policy and Development led the efforts to coordinate all activities related to the International Year of Youth. In accordance with both the theme of the year and the objectives set forth in the United Nations framework approach, the focal point creates awareness on youth issues, mobilizes stakeholders into action and expands partnerships with Member States, civil society organizations and United Nations entities, focused on creating a youth-centred global development agenda.

38. The focal point coordinated the launch of the year at United Nations Headquarters, and organized a series of 11 briefings with partners from civil society and the United Nations system, to discuss the major issues concerning youth within the framework of the year. The topics of those briefings included: "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding", "Investing in Youth", "Youth Employment", "Youth and Environment", "Youth and HIV/AIDS", "Youth Participation", "Girls and Young Women: Empowering Disadvantaged Girls and Young Women", "Indigenous Youth Issues", "Youth and Armed Conflict", "Youth and ICT", and "Youth and Education". The briefings were aimed at informing and facilitating dialogue among Member States, as well as between Member States and civil society. The focal point also organized a number of side events, including: "Youth employment in times of crisis", in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations; "Gender representation in youth-produced media", a side event at the Commission on the Status of Women, in collaboration with the Alliance of Civilizations and the International Organization for Migration; "Young people and decent work", a side event held during the International Day for the Eradication of

Poverty; "Youth participation", a side event held at the Commission on Social Development, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations and youth delegates; "Youth-led social development and young philanthropy", a side event organized in collaboration with the non-governmental organizations, Search for Common Ground; "The two sides of gender: gender equality through youth education", a side event held in collaboration with AXIOS-Misión Mujer during the Commission on the Status of Women; and "Youth participation: guarding the needs of current and future generations", a side event held at the Commission on Sustainable Development, organized in collaboration with the major group for children and youth in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

39. In order to promote a flow of transparent dialogue with its constituency, the focal point utilizes social media to connect with young people. Monthly consultations on youth issues and concerns have enabled young people from all over the world to express their opinions and inspire each other, regardless of differences. The July 2010 monthly consultation looked at the "many ways that youth could use to promote dialogue and mutual understanding".

40. In order to create deeper connections with its constituency during the International Year of Youth, in collaboration with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the World Organization of the Scout Movement, the focal point developed an "Activities kit: a guide to celebrating the International Year of Youth". The purpose of the kit was to provide young people with practical guidance and concrete examples of how to organize and implement activities on key topics during the year and beyond. Other publications included, "Youth Participation in Development: Summary Guidelines for Development Partners" (produced together with the non-governmental organizations Restless Development); a new 2010 edition of the World Programme of Action for Youth"; an International Year of Youth brochure; "a new 2010 guide to youth delegates to the United Nations"; and *Growing Together: Youth and the Work of the United Nations*.[7]

41. During the course of the year, the focal point also issued a series of fact sheets on "Youth Employment", "Armed Conflict", "Youth and Climate Change", "HIV and Young People", "Girls and Young Women", "Youth and Hunger", "Youth Participation", "Youth and intergenerational partnerships", "Youth as a Smart Investment", "Health of Young People", "Youth and Volunteerism", "Youth: Fostering of Dialogue and Mutual Understanding", "Youth with disabilities", "Regional Overview: Youth in Africa", "Regional Overview: Youth in the Arab Region" and "Regional Overview: Youth in Asia and the Pacific".[8]

42. The Department partnered with the United Nations academic impact to organize a series of e-discussions offering a platform for youth to express opinions on educational issues within the context of the Economic and Social Council high-level segment in Geneva in July 2011.

43. To bring greater visibility to youth issues, actress and youth advocate Monique Coleman was appointed the United Nations "Youth Champion" for the International Year of Youth. In that capacity, Ms. Coleman visited more than 25 countries during the year through partnerships with local governmental agencies, United Nations

[7] Available at: http://social.un.org/youthyear/publications.html.

[8] Available at: http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#fact.

entities and civil society organizations to meet young people, learn about their most pressing concerns and raise awareness about youth issues and achievements at the local, national and global levels.[9]

Department of Public Information

44. The Development Section of the Strategic Communications Division of the Department of Public Information participated in the production of the International Year of Youth brochure and kit and organized the press conference and materials for the appointment of Monique Coleman as United Nations Youth Champion. The global network of United Nations information centres organized numerous outreach activities to raise awareness on the year in collaboration with local partners, including host Governments, the media, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and youth associations. Activities for the year were organized at United Nations information centres in Beirut, Canberra, Dar es Salaam, Dhaka, Geneva, Lagos, Manama, Manila, Maseru, Mexico City, Nairobi, New Delhi, Ouagadougou, Port of Spain, Pretoria, Rio de Janeiro, Tashkent, Tbilisi, Tehran, Tripoli, Vienna, Yangon, Yaoundé and Yerevan. The information centres in Canberra, Bangkok, Bogota, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Dhaka, Jakarta, Lagos, Lima, Manila, Nairobi, New Delhi, Pretoria, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo assisted in organizing the visit of the United Nations Youth Champion to their respective countries.

45. Multilingual outlets of the News and Media Division of the Department of Public Information covered the International Year of Youth extensively, through online news, radio and television programming, meeting coverage, and social media platforms. The United Nations News Centre and United Nations Radio provided coverage of activities and developments related to the year in all official languages of the Organization. The Web Services Section created a specialized website in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.[10] The websites received a total number of 69,812 views between 12 August 2010 and 11 May 2011, based on statistics from Google analytics. The Web Services Section also created the International Youth Day website in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.[10] The Meetings Coverage Section issued a total of 44 press releases (27 in English and 17 in French), covering meetings and press conferences, including the Secretary-General's messages and statements during the year. The Department of Public Information is responsible for communication support during the high-level meeting on youth and for arranging press conferences and liaising with the media on developments related to the meeting.

Economic Commission for Africa

46. The African launch of the International Year of Youth, held in Addis Ababa, on African Youth Day, 1 November 2010, and was jointly organized by ECA and the African Union Commission. The event took the form of a panel discussion between African ambassadors from Togo, Egypt, Tunisia, Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria, and several representatives of African youth. The event increased awareness of the importance and benefits of youth participation in all spheres of African society.

[9] More information available at: http://social.un.org/youthyear/Coleman.html.

[10] See http://www.un.org/events.

47. The ECA Subregional Office for North Africa has planned a joint celebration of the International Year of Youth in the five Maghreb countries (Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia). The objective of the programme is to empower young people, ensuring that they have a more active role in the development process in the subregion, including in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The celebration includes three activities. In July 2011, a joint publication on "What does it mean to be young in the Maghreb?" will be launched in all five countries. A forum for young leaders to address the theme, "Youth participation and leadership in the Maghreb", will build on existing youth networks and use innovative ways to reach out to a large number of youth.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

48. During the International Year of Youth, ECLAC expanded its activities under the Ibero-American Plan for Cooperation and Integration of Youth, 2009-2015. One such initiative is the Knowledge System on Ibero-American Youth.[11] The website on the system aims to serve national youth institutions in Ibero-American countries, as well as academic institutions, journalists, youth leaders and the general public. The system was a joint venture between ECLAC and the Ibero-American Youth Organization during 2009-2010. The core of the system comprises a set of youth indicators for the countries of the Ibero-American region, but it also incorporates information from diverse governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

49. The regional launch of the International Year of Youth in the ESCAP region, organized by the Asia-Pacific Interagency Group on Youth (chaired by ESCAP), took place on 18 August 2010. Current youth-related programmes of United Nations entities in the Asia-Pacific region were mapped between November 2010 and March 2011. The mapping focused on the major issues identified under the World Programme of Action for Youth, and recommended potential areas of collaboration. The mapping provided the regional input to a global stock-taking of the capacity of United Nations agencies in youth-focused analytical research, programmes and activities. The Asia-Pacific Interagency Group on Youth has also been reviewing youth policies and experiences in the region for a regional report on national youth policies.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

50. The twenty-sixth ministerial session of ESCWA adopted the "Guiding Declaration of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on giving greater attention to Youth Policies: An Opportunity for Development". The Declaration renewed the commitment of Member States to the World Programme of Action for Youth and stressed the importance of developing and implementing human rights-focused national youth policies within that framework.

51. In November 2010, ESCWA organized the Regional Coordination Mechanism for United Nations agencies in the Arab Region at its headquarters in Beirut. The focus of the meeting was "Youth and poverty reduction". The closing statement recommended the development of a working arrangement between youth and the

[11] More information on the system is available from: sicj.cepal.org or www.iberostat.org.

Regional Coordination Mechanism, including the League of Arab States, and the possibility of a shadow "Arab Human Development Report on Youth".

52. ESCWA issued a number of publications, including its *Population and Development Report*, Issue No. 4, "Youth in the ESCWA region: situation analysis and implications for development policies"; and "Youth development in the ESCWA region: statistical profiles, national strategies and success stories".

Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

53. FAO, in collaboration with other United Nations entities and civil society organizations, has developed a range of educational material on climate change, food security and biodiversity, which includes a series of challenge badges and the International Award for Youth, a self-development programme for young people. The popular FAO "1 billion hungry project"[12] campaign has targeted young people through social media, suggesting ways for them to get involved in the drive to end hunger.

International Labour Organization

54. On the first day of the International Year of Youth, ILO launched its 2010 *Global Employment Trends for Youth* report,[13] which provided global and regional data and analysis of the mounting youth employment challenge. In December 2010, ILO provided technical expertise to the inaugural Global Youth Employment Agenda meeting held in London, which was attended by business, political and civil society leaders. ILO launched a new online platform to share knowledge on youth employment called the Youth Employment Knowledge Sharing Platform.[14] This web-based tool connects youth employment experts and practitioners living in several countries across the globe for the exchange of information, documents and good practices on youth employment. ILO also organized two interregional training workshops in Budapest and Lima in March and April 2011, to share knowledge on youth employment and migration issues. In addition, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and ILO undertook a joint project to review good practices in the promotion of decent rural employment opportunities for youth.

Alliance of Civilizations

55. The Alliance of Civilizations carried out three major initiatives in the context of the International Year of Youth that impacted about 500 youth from at least 110 countries: the Convention of the Global Youth Movement for the Alliance of Civilizations; the PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival on migration and social inclusion; and the Alliance of Civilizations summer school. The Convention of the Global Youth Movement for the Alliance of Civilizations, the youth platform of the Alliance, mobilizes youth organizations to reinforce their commitment to its objectives. From 7 to 9 April 2011, 130 youth from over 80 countries gathered in Baku, Azerbaijan, to work on the adoption of a charter for the initiative as well as on the identification of activities to be included in the action plan for 2011.

[12] More information available at: http://www.1billionhungry.org/.

[13] Report available at: http://www.ilo.org/publns.

[14] More information available from: https://papyrus.ilo.org/YE/YEKSP/acl_users/credentials_cookie_auth/require_login?came_from=https://papyrus.ilo.org/YE/YEKSP/homepage.

Subsequently, the Alliance and leaders of the Global Youth Movement began to implement the decisions made during the first Convention.

56. The PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival on migration and social inclusion, a joint initiative of the Alliance of Civilizations and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is an annual youth video festival that empowers young people to explore issues of migration, diversity and social inclusion. Over 250 videos from 63 countries were presented at the first two festivals.

57. The Alliance of Civilizations summer school was held at the University of Aveiro, Portugal, from 15 to 21 August 2010. It enabled dialogue and interaction between over 110 youth participants from diverse backgrounds from 44 countries.

United Nations Capital Development Fund

58. The United Nations Capital Development Fund launched YouthStart in December 2010, in collaboration with the MasterCard Foundation, an initiative to increase access to financial services for 200,000 low-income youth in Sub-Saharan Africa. The programme was boosted by a four-year, $12 million contribution from The MasterCard Foundation. With a specific emphasis on savings, YouthStart will identify and support up to 12 financial institutions to pilot sustainable financial services tailored to youth.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

59. UN-Habitat views young people as effective advocates of change and as catalysts in making a difference on the ground. With this in mind, the 23rd Governing Council of UN-Habitat led major initiatives in line with the International Year of Youth. The 23rd Governing Council adopted a new resolution on urban youth development, encouraging UN-Habitat to lead joint efforts on urban youth issues within the United Nations system, and requesting that United Nations agencies explore the possibility of enhancing the involvement of young people in sustainable urban development. The Urban Youth Research Network and the Global Youth Help Desk were also launched at the 23rd Governing Council of UN-Habitat.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

60. UNESCO served as the Co-Chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development from February 2010 to February 2011, and spearheaded a host of initiatives at the national, regional and international levels during the International Year of Youth. National studies on youth development and civic engagement were developed in the Azerbaijan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Lebanon, Russian Federation, and the United Republic of Tanzania. UNESCO supported national policy formulation on youth in Brazil, Jordan, Lebanon, Tokelau and Tuvalu, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and national and regional partners, developed regional studies on youth civic engagement in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Asia-Pacific region and the Arab States, and completed a study on the situation of youth in the Greater Horn of Africa. Within the framework of the year, Lebanon conducted a project on "Cultural reconciliation for Lebanese youth", and capacity development in peace dialogue for Lebanese and Palestinian high school students. UNESCO also provided educational support for marginalized and vulnerable youth by building capacity through sport (Palestinian Territories), offering grant schemes and scholarships

(Jordan and the Palestinian Territories) and working to map technical and vocational education and training opportunities for youth, particularly for female students, in Gaza. In Egypt, Iraq and Tunisia, and in the Palestinian Territories, UNESCO supported consultations with youth to promote youth civil engagement and participation.

61. Regionally, the fourth UNESCO Asian Youth Forum, held in September 2010 in the Republic of Korea, addressed the theme, "Youth creativity and vision for community in Asia". In July 2011, the National Commission of the Republic of Korea for UNESCO, in cooperation with the UNESCO secretariat, organized the fifth UNESCO Asian Youth Forum, linked to the International Year of Youth. In Latin America and Caribbean, the Forum of Ministers of Social Development (11 and 12 July 2011, San Salvador) focused on the theme, "Social policies for youth in Latin America." In the Arab States, a regional research project on "Entrepreneurship education in the Arab States" was carried out in 2011.

62. UNESCO has proposed the development of a joint follow-up mechanism for key youth events in order to strengthen the accountability and responsibility of both the organizers and the participants of such events and to facilitate partnerships for follow-up. UNESCO assessed the results of 50 global and regional events on youth since 2008, and developed a matrix with common clusters of recommendations, built around the 15 standard areas of the World Programme of Action on Youth and a number of emerging issues identified through these events. The initiative will be presented and discussed at the seventh UNESCO Youth Forum, to be held at UNESCO headquarters in October 2011, where partners and young participants will identify the next steps for collaborative follow-up actions.

Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

63. The secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in collaboration with several United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and youth organizations, organized a series of activities targeting children and young people during the 2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico. The conference was hosted by the Government of Mexico between 29 November and 10 December 2010. All of these activities were coordinated with the youth constituency active in the climate change process.

United Nations Population Fund

64. UNFPA collaborated with partners from Governments, civil society and the United Nations system to raise awareness about the issues facing youth in sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and human rights. Along with its partners it used innovative, evidence-based strategies to increase knowledge of sexual and reproductive health among young people, improve access to services and ensure that the issues facing young people, especially adolescent girls, are addressed in national and global policies and development plans. UNFPA supported the creation of a platform for national consultation on issues affecting youth, where youth and key stakeholders could identify solutions, and held youth forums and consultations in Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mongolia, Namibia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Senegal, Tajikistan and Zambia. Sports, art, music, film and theatre events held in Armenia, Georgia, India, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe led to the creation of youth centres for people in rural Zimbabwe, a national youth council in Haiti, the

establishment of a non-governmental organization in Georgia, joint peacebuilding activities in Kyrgyzstan and the presentation of policy recommendations to city government officials in the Philippines.

65. UNFPA also supported the regional launch of the International Year of Youth in the Asia-Pacific region and Arab States, and a march in Istanbul, Turkey on the theme, "Our Year, Our Voice: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Matters", which attracted media attention and highlighted the year. UNFPA provided support and training to youth journalists at the World Youth Conference in Mexico and supported several global initiatives on youth using non-traditional media. Finally, in collaboration with the Youth Coalition, UNFPA produced three fact sheets highlighting the linkages between young people's sexual and reproductive rights and the Millennium Development Goals.

United Nations Children's Fund

66. UNICEF undertook a number of advocacy initiatives focused on youth participation at the global level during the Internationat Year of Youth. UNICEF collaborated with the focal point of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on youth to produce a fact sheet on "Youth participation", organized a briefing on "Adolescent and youth participation", and produced a film and a public service announcement on youth participation.

67. At the country-level, UNICEF trained and equipped environmental youth corps in Brazil, Haiti, Fiji and Zambia. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, youth activities included forums and interviews of candidates for mayor, the participatory development of a plan for the International Year of Youth and the appointment of a team of youth reporters in La Paz municipality. In Guatemala, UNICEF advocated the approval of the national youth law initiative by Congress before September 2011 and also supported a media campaign called "Te Toca" (Your turn!) to build public awareness of issues affecting children and adolescents. In the Middle East and North Africa region, a series of cultural events kicked off the year: in the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF launched the year through an advocacy youth project, photo exhibition and cultural event in Damascus; in Lebanon, the celebration of the year was accompanied by the governmental launch of the national youth policy in December 2010.

68. UNICEF has been active in rebuilding efforts in Haiti, supporting the establishment of the National Youth Council of Haiti in March 2011, a platform where 16 youth organizations and networks, spanning all of Haiti's religions, could work together to promote youth dialogue and the strengthening of the development of youth policies. In partnership with the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action, the Global Movement for Children and others, UNICEF organized youth consultations with 250 young representatives and shared the outcomes of the forum with Government authorities. UNICEF was also instrumental in launching the "Vwajen" blog, the biggest youth hub in Creole where young people could express their ideas.

United Nations Volunteers

69. The United Nations Volunteers programme participated with other United Nations entities in launching events for the International Year of Youth in Honduras,

Mexico, Uruguay and Viet Nam. The programme supported the development of national youth policies in Cambodia and Solomon Islands, and national volunteer policies in Viet Nam and Honduras, highlighting the added-value of volunteerism in developing youth skills and promoting youth participation in the development processes. In June 2011, in collaboration with the European Commission, UNESCO and several civil society partners, the programme organized a global exchange on "Youth volunteerism and non-formal education and the Millennium Development Goals", a joint event for the International Year of Youth and the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers. In 2010-2011, the programme, with the University of Madrid, which mobilized 45 Spanish university volunteers, gave priority to assignments supporting youth programmes and the goals of the year. In commemoration of the year and the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, the programme published a discussion paper called "Youth volunteering, social integration and decent work: inspiring leadership". The 2011 report of the United Nations Volunteers also focuses on youth and volunteerism for peace and development.

World Tourism Organization

70. The World Tourism Organization published a study in 2008 entitled, "Youth travel matters: understanding the global phenomenon of youth travel", which offers global overview of the youth and student travel industry. Most notably, it sought to highlight how the unique motivations of young travellers make them extremely important to the key objectives of the global tourism agenda.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

71. The International Year of Youth successfully underscored the role of youth in the achievement of the global development agenda, in particular the Millennium Development Goals. The activities of Governments, civil society and United Nations entities related to the year brought the youth agenda to prominence. Further efforts are needed, however, to maintain and capitalize upon the momentum generated during the year.

72. **In view of the foregoing, the General Assembly may wish to consider the following recommendations, calling upon Member States:**

(a) **To further strengthen partnerships with and among young people, youth organizations, academia, civil society organizations, the private sector, the media and the United Nations system in order to develop partnerships with youth;**

(b) **To continue promoting a culture of dialogue and mutual understanding among and with youth, as agents of development, social inclusion, tolerance and peace;**

(c) **To undertake measures in partnership with relevant stakeholders to develop a youth-centred global development agenda.**

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International drug control

International cooperation against the world drug problem

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/233, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The report provides an overview of the status of implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, other parts of the United Nations system and international organizations. It also provides an overview of the world drug situation.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of the world drug situation and on the status of implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and by other international organizations.

II. Overview of the world drug situation

2. Globally, UNODC estimates that between 149 million and 272 million people, or between 3.3 per cent and 6.1 per cent of the population aged 15-64, used illicit substances at least once in the previous year.[1] While the total number of illicit drug users has increased since the late 1990s, the prevalence rates have remained largely stable, as has the number of problem drug users, which is estimated at between 15 million and 39 million.

3. While there were stabilizing or decreasing trends in the abuse of heroin and cocaine, these have been offset by increases in the abuse of synthetic and prescription drugs. Non-medical use of prescription drugs is a growing health problem in a number of developed and developing countries.

4. In recent years, several new synthetic compounds have emerged. Many of these substances are marketed as "legal highs" and substitutes for illicit stimulant drugs such as cocaine or methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA, commonly known as "ecstasy"). Two examples are piperazines and mephedrone, which are not under international control.

5. Deaths related to or associated with the use of illicit drugs are estimated at between 104,000 and 263,000 per year, over half of which are estimated to be overdose cases. Of the people who abuse drugs by injection, 2.8 million are HIV-positive.

6. Global opium poppy cultivation amounted to some 195,700 hectares (ha) in 2010, a small increase from 2009. Of that, some 123,000 ha were cultivated in Afghanistan, where such cultivation remained stable. The global trend was mainly driven by increases in Myanmar, where such cultivation rose by approximately 20 per cent from 2009. A significant reduction (38 per cent) in global opium production in 2010 was attributable to disease affecting opium poppy plants in Afghanistan.

7. The global area under coca bush cultivation shrank to 149,100 ha in 2010, a decline of 18 per cent compared with 2007. There was also a significant decline in potential cocaine manufacture, reflecting falling cocaine manufacture in Colombia, which offset increases in Peru and Bolivia (Plurinational State of). Uncertainty existed, however, regarding the level of manufacture in recent years, which might

[1] Data in this section is taken from the *World Drug Report 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.10); available from www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/WDR-2011.html.

be higher than previously estimated owing to an increase in the efficiency of clandestine cocaine laboratories.

8. Over the past two decades, the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants has spread. More than 60 Member States have reported such manufacturing activity to date.

9. Cannabis plant cultivation occurs in most countries worldwide. The relatively stable seizure trend suggests a stable level of cannabis production. Indoor cultivation of cannabis plants is still largely limited to the developed countries of North America, Europe and Oceania. Afghanistan and Morocco continued to be major producers of cannabis resin.

10. Trends show increased seizures for all the major drug types. Between 1998 and 2009, seizures of cocaine, heroin, morphine and cannabis almost doubled. Seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants more than tripled over the same period. Seizures of opiates and cocaine remained stable in 2009, albeit at a high level. Seizures of cannabis herb increased, whereas seizures of cannabis resin decreased.

III. International cooperation against the world drug problem: action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

11. At the round table on regional and international cooperation in combating the world drug problem and its connection with organized crime, held during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it was reiterated that the international drug control conventions and the international legal instruments addressing transnational organized crime provided the legislative framework to support international cooperation and coordination to combat drug trafficking, as well as direction to international efforts in the area of supply and demand reduction strategies. The Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 (A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A), also provided a framework in that regard.

12. The Commission also adopted a number of resolutions in relation to issues in international drug control identified by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/233 for further action by Member States. These include resolutions 54/5, entitled "Promoting rehabilitation- and reintegration-oriented strategies in response to drug use disorders and their consequences that are directed at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities", and resolution 54/13, entitled "Achieving zero new infections of HIV among injecting drug users and other drug users". In resolution 54/5, the Commission, inter alia, urged Member States to ensure that drug treatment was evidence-based, part of an integrated approach to drug demand reduction and recognized as a key element of national efforts aimed at reducing illicit drug use and its adverse health and social consequences, and to improve rehabilitation and reintegration services directed at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities.

13. In resolution 54/8, entitled "Strengthening international cooperation and regulatory and institutional frameworks for the control of precursor chemicals used

in the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs", the Commission, recalling its resolutions 53/15 and 51/10, in which it had urged Member States to further strengthen, update or, if they had not yet done so, establish national legislation and mechanisms relating to the control of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, pursuant to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, invited Member States to take appropriate measures to strengthen international cooperation and the exchange of information regarding the identification of new routes and modi operandi of criminal organizations dedicated to the diversion or smuggling of precursor chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Also in resolution 54/8, the Commission, taking note of the positive results achieved through Project Prism and Project Cohesion, launched by the International Narcotics Control Board in cooperation with States to stem the diversion of amphetamine-type stimulants and heroin and cocaine precursors, respectively, encouraged Governments to continue contributing to the efforts of the Board, especially through the Pre-Export Notification Online system for pre-export notification of precursor chemicals.

14. At the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, several speakers welcomed the move by UNODC away from a project-based to an integrated programme-based approach and expressed support for the development and implementation of regional and thematic programmes. The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Support for the development and implementation of an integrated approach to programme development at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime".

Action of the subsidiary bodies

15. Four meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2010: the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima from 4 to 7 October; the Thirty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 30 November to 3 December; the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Nairobi from 13 to 17 September; and the forty-fifth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Damascus from 8 to 12 November.

16. The subsidiary bodies provided drug law enforcement authorities from countries of specific regions with the opportunity to exchange information, enhance cooperation at the technical and operational levels in the area of drug control at the regional, subregional and bilateral levels and build trust and partnerships among counterparts in different countries. They transmitted their recommendations to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-fourth session (E/CN.7/2011/5).

IV. Action by the United Nations system and other international organizations

17. UNODC aims to make the world safer from drugs by supporting the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and by supporting Member States through

normative work to assist States in the ratification and implementation of international drug control conventions and the development of national drug control legislation, as well as the provision of substantive and secretariat services for treaty bodies and governing bodies, field-based technical cooperation, the development and implementation of regional and thematic programmes, and research to expand the evidence base for policy and operational decisions.

A. Health dimension

18. The Office has continued to develop a health-centred and evidence-based approach to helping people affected by drugs and has raised awareness of the importance of drug demand reduction.

1. Reducing drug abuse and its health and social consequences

19. UNODC has been implementing an ongoing global project to adapt, implement and evaluate evidence-based family skills training programmes worldwide.

20. In response to the growing problem of abuse of prescription drugs worldwide, UNODC has started raising awareness about the need to develop a strategy in support of Member States. An expert group meeting held in Vienna from 22 to 24 June 2010 led to the preparation of a discussion paper entitled "The nonmedical use of prescription drugs: policy direction issues", which provides details about epidemiology and vulnerable groups, policy directions to assist readers in understanding the scope of the problem and specific issues related to the problem and vulnerable groups, and policy recommendations.

21. UNODC continued its joint work with the World Health Organization in improving drug dependence treatment and care services globally. The coverage and quality of treatment and care services for drug use disorders based on evidence and ethical standards is being improved in about 30 countries worldwide.

22. To reduce the burden caused by drug abuse and dependence among children and young adolescents in many developing countries, and in particular in response to the serious situation identified in Afghanistan, where traditional use of opium has led to a large-scale tragedy, affecting whole families, children and youth, who are suffering from problematic drug use and dependence on opioids, including heroin, UNODC has launched a global programme, starting in Afghanistan, to respond to the needs of children exposed to drugs at a very young age, developing treatment and social protection interventions for that vulnerable group.

23. With a view to broadening the concept of sustainable livelihoods and complementing interventions targeted at populations vulnerable to drugs, HIV/AIDS and crime, UNODC initiated interventions to provide first-line basic social assistance to support drug and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programmes for drug-dependent individuals and prisoners in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

2. Access to treatment, health care and social services, including prevention of HIV/AIDS and other drug-related diseases

24. UNODC has supported countries in five regions to improve the quality and increase coverage of drug dependence treatment and care services, providing training for treatment providers on evidence-based approaches and interventions. The coverage of treatment and care services for drug use disorders based on evidence and ethical standards is being increased in participating countries,[2] and advocacy efforts have resulted in a better understanding among relevant stakeholders and decision makers of the nature of drug use and dependence.

25. UNODC has been actively involved in supporting Member States in ensuring appropriate access to and the availability of controlled substances for the treatment of pain, in full compliance with the international drug control conventions. In early 2011, UNODC prepared a discussion paper entitled "Ensuring availability of controlled medications for the relief of pain and preventing diversion and abuse: striking the right balance to achieve the optimal public health outcome", which addressed the importance of ensuring the adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes. That paper could assist Member States in moving forward with practical action in an area involving cooperation and coherence at both the national and international levels.

26. UNODC provided training and technical assistance for the development of national strategic plans on HIV/AIDS for the period 2011-2015 that incorporate the needs of drug abusers (in particular, persons who abuse drugs by injection), including in prison settings in more than 60 countries. The activities implemented by UNODC included technical support to conduct legal and policy reviews; the adaptation of legislation; the development and implementation of policies and strategies to ensure equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services; and support to reduce stigma and discrimination with respect to drug addicts, particularly those infected with HIV, and to improve access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services by implementing human-rights-based, gender-responsive and equitable AIDS policies and services that are accessible to persons who abuse drugs by injection, including in prison settings, and to people who are vulnerable to trafficking in humans.

27. In collaboration with relevant national and international partners, UNODC developed and disseminated in more than 70 countries evidence-based policy and programmatic tools, guidelines and best practices of evidence-based comprehensive HIV-prevention, treatment and care services for persons who abuse drugs by injection, including in prison settings, and for persons who are vulnerable to trafficking in humans.

28. Technical assistance provided by UNODC in nearly 80 countries, including countries affected by humanitarian crisis, assisted Member States in resource mobilization, the establishment of multisectoral working groups, the assessment of programmatic needs and the development, implementation, monitoring and

[2] Afghanistan, Albania, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam and Zambia.

evaluation of evidence-based comprehensive HIV-prevention, treatment and care services for persons who abuse drugs by injection, including in prison settings, and for persons who are vulnerable to trafficking in humans. The activities of UNODC also addressed the occupational health of law enforcement personnel with regard to HIV and supported building their capacity in comprehensive responses to HIV among key populations.

B. Supply dimension

29. The focus of UNODC technical assistance remains directed at introducing better management, control and selection practices at borders, developing the professional capacity of investigating and prosecuting agencies, and addressing the proceeds of drug trafficking by countering money-laundering. This is combined with the provision of assistance to farmers to reduce the illicit drug supply through alternative livelihood programmes.

Regional initiatives to counter illicit production of and trafficking in drugs

30. UNODC has helped to put in place a number of regional and transnational mechanisms to strengthen responses to the manifold threats posed by drugs of abuse.

31. Through the Paris Pact Initiative, UNODC has facilitated strategic thinking between partner Governments at the expert and policy levels. The annual Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group Meeting, held in Vienna on 22 and 23 November 2010, reviewed progress made in the implementation of operational priorities related to Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. Through its Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism, information on projects related to countering narcotics in Afghanistan, its neighbouring countries and South-Eastern Europe was made available, while data collection and analytical capacities in priority countries were strengthened in 2010 through the established network of Paris Pact national strategic analysts based at the UNODC country offices in the region.

32. According to UNODC estimates, 90 tons of heroin were smuggled from Afghanistan via Central Asia in 2009. The Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre is part of efforts to strengthen law enforcement cooperation among countries on the front line of efforts to counter drug trafficking, including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the five Central Asian States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and the Russian Federation. The activities of the Centre are aimed at increasing the exchange of information and cooperation in the organization of joint international counter-narcotics operations, including controlled deliveries. The Centre also plays a significant role in strengthening operational cooperation with countries beyond the region and international organizations such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the European Police Office (Europol) and the World Customs Organization. Since the Centre officially opened in December 2009, more than 20 drug trafficking channels have been disrupted, with seizures of more than 250 kg of heroin and more than 115 kg of opium.

33. Other regional initiatives included the annual ministerial meeting of the Triangular Initiative, which brings together Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

and Pakistan. The Tehran-based joint planning cell of the Triangular Initiative was created to support operations against the illicit drug trade. Those countries form the first line of defence against the flow of illicit drugs, which threatens security throughout the region and beyond. The Targeted Anti-trafficking Regional Communication, Expertise and Training (TARCET) operations produced important results in the area of precursor control. Seizures of acetic anhydride took place in Afghanistan and Pakistan, while other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of heroin were seized in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan.

34. In June 2011 UNODC and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization signed a memorandum of understanding to promote partnerships in a range of areas related to international health, safety and security. The memorandum of understanding is aimed at examining core areas, including drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime. The issue of drug trafficking is a key concern for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, one which can be further addressed through the memorandum of understanding and other multilateral actions. In September 2010 the Shanghai Cooperation Organization signed a cooperation agreement with the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre.

35. Regional partnerships will be further enhanced through the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, which covers Central Asia, Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan and is being developed by UNODC.

36. Increasingly, UNODC is spearheading regional initiatives to help prevent the destabilization of post-conflict countries by integrating drug and crime control into United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions. International cooperation gathered greater momentum with the UNODC regional programme for West Africa for the period 2010-2014. This programme supports the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regional action plan against drug trafficking and organized crime through collaboration among international stakeholders. The UNODC partnership with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the United Nations Office for West Africa and INTERPOL to support operational, cross-border law enforcement cooperation in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone to investigate drug trafficking and organized crime was further advanced in 2010 with the establishment of multiagency units to counter transnational organized crime.

37. The UNODC regional programme for promoting the rule of law and human security in East Africa for the period 2009-2012 also promotes a multiagency approach to combating organized crime and drug trafficking in 13 East African States, including through the establishment of units to counter transnational organized crime.

38. In the past decade, the Governments of member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have been joining efforts to realize a "drug-free ASEAN" by 2015 by addressing threats related to illicit drug manufacturing, trafficking and abuse. The ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) Plan of Action, continues to provide a strong basis for action in the region. UNODC closely cooperates with the ACCORD Plan of Action through a memorandum of understanding with the six countries in the Greater Mekong subregion (Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic,

Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) for addressing the problem of illicit drugs. The key vehicle of the memorandum of understanding is the subregional action plan. The eighth and most recent subregional action plan, approved in May 2011, is aimed at tackling the worrying increase in illicit opium production in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

39. The League of Arab States and the UNODC regional programme on drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice reform in the Arab States for the period 2011-2015 fostered cooperation among international, regional and national stakeholders for the prevention of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse.

40. In the framework of the UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering, hands-on advice and assistance were provided to law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges and financial intelligence unit personnel from more than 85 jurisdictions, 26 training events were organized worldwide and 1,250 officers were trained. The Global Programme contributed to the launch of an asset forfeiture mechanism for South America in the context of the Financial Action Task Force of South America against Money-Laundering (GAFISUD). In Southern Africa, the Global Programme continued providing close support to the subregional Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Southern Africa.

41. More than 90 per cent of global trade is transported by sea, making smuggling via containers attractive for criminals and challenging to detect. While more than 420 million maritime containers move around the globe each year, only 2 per cent are inspected. An important element in that regard is the technical assistance programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization, which has led to the establishment of dedicated, specialized inter-agency container profiling units (joint port control units) in the principal ports and container terminals of 12 participating States and trained their personnel to identify, target and interdict sea containers in Latin America (Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama), West Africa (Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana, Senegal and Togo) and in Economic Cooperation Organization Member States such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkmenistan. There are 12 participating States with operational container profiling units (Afghanistan, Benin, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Pakistan, Panamá, Senegal, Togo and Turkmenistan), and the programme is expected to be extended to Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Mali and Morocco. This initiative has delivered solid results from the outset, intercepting sea containers carrying illicit drugs and diverted precursor chemicals. Total seizures have amounted to more than 40 tons of cocaine and more than 35 tons of cannabis, as well as approximately 770 tons of precursor chemicals.

42. In response to the drug trafficking threat in West African States, UNODC, together with the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL, has upgraded the drug-interdiction capacities at eight selected international airports in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) will establish joint airport interdiction task forces comprised of law enforcement officers from different services; train them in professional risk assessment, targeting and profiling techniques for both passenger and freight analysis; and link those operational units through a secure communications network to counterpart units operating at other airports.

C. Illicit drug crop monitoring and sustainable livelihoods

43. UNODC and its national counterparts conducted opium surveys in Afghanistan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar and coca surveys in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. In 2010, a second cannabis survey was conducted in Afghanistan. Expert consultations on illicit crop monitoring were held with the Government of India. Global opium poppy cultivation amounted to some 195,700 ha in 2010, a small increase from 2009. The bulk of that cultivation was accounted for by Afghanistan, where such cultivation remained stable. The global trend was mainly driven by increases in Myanmar, where such cultivation rose by some 20 per cent from 2009 to 38,100 ha. Opium poppy cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic increased in 2010, but remained at a low level of 3,000 ha. In 2010, the total area under coca bush cultivation worldwide decreased by 6 per cent, mainly as a result of a significant reduction in Colombia, which was not entirely offset by a small increase in Peru. In 2010, the total area under coca bush cultivation in Colombia was estimated at 62,000 ha after applying a correction factor to adjust for small fields. In Peru in 2010, the total area under coca bush cultivation amounted to 61,200 ha, an increase of 1,300 ha or 2 per cent, over 2009, indicating an overall stable situation.

44. Rural development encourages licit crop cultivation, and a distinct correlation can be seen between the provision of agricultural assistance and a drop in illicit crop cultivation. Giving farmers access to markets also helps them to shift away from illicit crop cultivation.

45. UNODC continued to support small farmer communities to increase licit agricultural production and sustainably manage the use of natural resources. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic and in Myanmar, UNODC continued targeting current and former opium poppy-farming communities through village infrastructure planning and the creation of local enterprises. As a result, the communities are now more self-sufficient in rice and other food staples. UNODC continues implementing productive projects in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Peru. In Colombia, UNODC is actively supporting the production of "products of peace" by farmers vulnerable to illicit crop cultivation and contributes to integrating indigenous peoples into sustainable environment protection initiatives.

D. Main concerns and emerging issues

1. The threat from Afghan opiates

46. Globally, more than 15 million people use opiates annually. Heroin is the most abused opiate, with more than 12 million users globally consuming an estimated 375 tons of pure heroin per year. Afghanistan is the source of some 85 per cent of the heroin and opium consumed worldwide.

47. The *UNODC Afghanistan Opium Survey 2011: Winter Rapid Assessment*,[3] based on the intentions of farmers at the time of planting, gave a first indication that overall cultivation in the whole country was expected to decrease slightly in 2011,

[3] Available from www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/ORAS_report_2011_phase_II_20110415.pdf.

although opium poppy cultivation has started to spread again across the country because of high prices. As a result, opium production will probably be higher than in 2010.

48. In 2010, Afghan heroin was smuggled to numerous destinations worldwide, Europe being the largest illicit market. In 2010, 150 tons of pure Afghan heroin were estimated to have been consumed in Europe. East Asia and South-East Asia have also become significant destinations for Afghan heroin, as a consequence of the decrease in opium production in Myanmar during the past decade. Almost 50 per cent of the Chinese market and most of the East Asian market may have been supplied by Afghan heroin in 2010. Increasing flows of heroin to Africa were also leading to increases in drug abuse in parts of that continent.

49. In addition to land borders, the sea and airports of Afghanistan's immediate neighbours have become increasingly used for trafficking in heroin and acetic anhydride. Maritime transportation in particular appears to have gained in importance among drug traffickers, be it for exporting heroin by the African route or for importing acetic anhydride destined for heroin-processing laboratories in Afghanistan.

50. Although heroin demand has stabilized worldwide, there are no signs of a decrease at present. Afghanistan and its neighbours cannot alone bear the burden of stopping the operation of the global opiate market. There needs to be an increase, in line with international standards and guidelines, of treatment efforts directed at core opiate users, who are both consuming the bulk of illicit opiates and suffering the most severe health and social consequences as a result.

2. Transatlantic cocaine trafficking

51. Over the past decade, there has been a dramatic evolution of the international market for cocaine. While the cocaine market declined in North America, it doubled in Europe. The upward trend in Europe does not, however, appear to have continued over the period 2006-2009; instead it has shown signs of stabilization at the higher level. In 1998, the cocaine market in the United States of America was four times larger than in Europe. Since then, there has been a rebalancing, with the value of Europe's market estimated to have been worth some $36 billion in 2009,[4] almost equivalent to the $37 billion value of the United States market. Drug traffickers use West Africa as a transit area, taking advantage of the relative proximity of that subregion to Europe. That has led to the development of growing local markets in the subregion, although trafficking via Africa as a whole declined markedly between 2007 and 2009. In some countries of Central America, cocaine trafficking has led to increased violence.

52. UNODC estimates that in 2009 alone global cocaine sales ($85 billion) generated less than $1 billion in income for farmers and about $84 billion in gross profits for traffickers, a sum equivalent to or even exceeding the gross domestic product (GDP) of many developing countries. In source countries, transit areas and final destinations, illicit drugs continue to pose a serious danger to the lives of people. With drug-related gang violence, social and political destabilization and addiction, which affect not only the lives of users but also those of their family

[4] The market for Western and Central Europe amounts to $33 billion.

members and members of their communities, the situation is one that warrants high-level attention.

53. It is necessary for affected countries on both sides of the Atlantic to tackle this problem in a coordinated, combined manner through the implementation of policies aimed at reducing demand for cocaine, tracking the illicit movement of drugs and confiscating criminal assets.

54. Ministers from 22 countries and representatives of 10 international and regional organizations at the extended Group of Eight (G-8) ministerial meeting held in Paris in May 2011 endorsed a political declaration and a plan of action to encourage cooperation by all countries directly affected by cocaine by working with the international financial institutions to address the problem in an integrated manner. This would include the universalization and implementation of international conventions, the improvement of the collection and sharing of intelligence, the intensification of maritime cooperation and the improvement of international cooperation and legal mechanisms to target and confiscate criminal assets.

3. Trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants

55. While the production and consumption centres for drugs such as heroin and cocaine are often separated by large geographical distances, synthetic drugs can be manufactured literally in the kitchens of users. This means that there is no long trafficking route along which law enforcement agencies can intercept the illicit drug shipments. Amphetamine-type stimulants thus pose very different challenges for law enforcement. This ease of establishing facilities has been witnessed with the movement of these locations from earlier production areas such as Western Europe to markets in the developing world.

56. The illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and use of amphetamine-type stimulants, such as methamphetamine, amphetamine and MDMA (commonly known as "ecstasy"), has become a global threat. More than 60 States from all regions have reported the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. In addition, there are strong indications that their manufacture has spread to West Africa. Methamphetamine is the most widely manufactured amphetamine-type stimulant worldwide.

57. Global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants have increased significantly over the past 10 years. In 2009, such seizures rose by 16 per cent. The increase was driven by the quantities of seized methamphetamine, which rose markedly from 22 tons in 2008 to 31 tons in 2009.

58. The abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants is widespread. In 2009, UNODC estimated that, with annual prevalence ranging between 0.3 and 1.3 per cent, between 13.7 million and 56.4 million people aged 15-64 had used an amphetamine-type stimulant at least once in the previous year. In East and South-East Asia, amphetamine-type stimulants are now ranked among the top three drugs of abuse in all countries in the region. In some of those countries, amphetamine-type stimulants have even become the primary drug of abuse, displacing other drugs such as cannabis, opium or heroin.

59. The capacity to monitor these developments on a global scale remains limited. This significantly impedes the ability of Governments to adequately respond to the

situation. While the introduction of the UNODC Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme in 2008 has resulted in the establishment of a systematic monitoring mechanism for gathering data on the illicit use of synthetic drugs in Asia and Latin America, there are no similar systems for other regions.

4. Emerging issues

60. The emergence of several new unregulated synthetic compounds in established illicit markets for amphetamine-type stimulants in Europe and in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States has been a significant trend in recent years.

61. As many of those substances are not controlled under the international drug control treaties, they are often marketed as "legal highs". One such substance is mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone), which first appeared on illicit markets around 2007. The substance, which has no medical use in either humans or animals, has been associated with a number of fatalities in European countries. In December 2010, mephedrone was banned in member States of the European Union; however, it is still available on illicit drug markets and has also appeared in countries outside Europe, including Australia and the United States.

62. Another phenomenon has been the appearance on illicit drug markets of synthetic cannabinoids, which mimic the effects of cannabis. Since 2004, herbal mixtures marketed under the brand name Spice have been available in European countries such as Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Initially, the use of these substances was limited to a small number of experimental users; however, the fact that the substances are not controlled by either the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 or the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 enables manufacturers and sellers of those substances to market them as "legal" cannabis substitutes. As a result, the number of users of those substances has increased significantly. Although some countries have proceeded to prohibit a single compound or a broader spectrum of those compounds, many varieties of those products continue to be sold over the Internet and new substances constantly appear on this dynamic market.

63. Ketamine, an anaesthetic (mainly used in veterinary medicine) that is not controlled under the international drug control treaties, is another substance that is increasingly encountered on markets for synthetic drugs and often found as an active ingredient in what is sold on illicit markets as "ecstasy", as ketamine also has some hallucinogenic properties. Ketamine use has been reported in Asia, Europe, North America and Oceania. While in 2001 only two countries reported seizures of ketamine to UNODC, the number had increased to 20 by 2006, including multi-ton seizures of the substance in China. Seizures of ketamine in India increased from 60 kg in 2005 to more than 1,000 kg in 2009.

64. The emergence of these unregulated substances often remains unnoticed for a long time, given that there are no reporting requirements for drugs not controlled under the international drug control treaties. In addition, there is little epidemiological research on the use of these substances or forensic toxicological investigation. As a result, Governments face considerable challenges in monitoring, assessing and responding to this problem.

65. Non-medical use of prescription drugs, such as a number of synthetic opioids, tranquillizers, sedatives and stimulants, is reportedly a growing health concern in a number of countries. Prescription drugs may replace certain illicit drugs, since their use is perceived to be less harmful because they are prescribed by physicians. They are legal and cheaper than illicit drugs, and their use is more socially acceptable. Another issue of concern is that a growing number of polydrug users among illicit drug users also use prescription drugs in combination with their illicit drug of choice to enhance the effects of the main drug.

E. Data collection and research

66. In December 2009, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs approved a new version of the annual report questionnaire that served as the basis for data collection in 2010. A new electronic format was also developed to facilitate reporting by countries. Data collected from Member States were analysed and disseminated through the Web and a number of publications, most notably the *World Drug Report*.

67. There remain major gaps in the capacity of countries to collect, analyse and disseminate drug-related data, given the wide disparity in the quality and timeliness of reporting among regions. For example, there continues to be a lack of reporting in subregions of Africa and Asia, including South Asia and parts of East Asia, and in nearly all of the small Pacific island States. The large data gap prevents the international community from developing a comprehensive understanding of the global dimension of the drug problem and hampers its efforts to provide a multilateral response. In 2010, UNODC continued its efforts to support countries in improving data availability through training and technical support for data collection activities and launched the "Programme on monitoring information on drug supply statistics and epidemiology" (PROMISE) to build the capacity of countries to improve data on drug supply and demand.

68. The monitoring of the illicit drug problem faced by Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries is a priority, given its severity. UNODC established a dedicated research programme on the global trade in Afghan opiates, which is aimed at strengthening research capacity and producing analytical reports for decision makers. Reports already issued have focused on the Afghan opium/heroin industry and its relation to regional security issues. UNODC will continue to release yearly reports and work to enhance the research capacity in the countries concerned.

69. UNODC released the *World Drug Report 2011* on 23 June 2011. The report provides an overview of the illicit drug situation, both worldwide and by region, followed by comprehensive analysis and statistical trends relating to the key transnational drug markets, namely opium/heroin, coca/cocaine, amphetamine-type stimulants and cannabis. While also drawing on other sources where relevant, the statistics presented were gathered mainly through the annual report questionnaire submitted by Governments and the illicit crop surveys produced in cooperation with Member States.

70. In 2009 and 2010, UNODC also started to intensify its research efforts on the global cocaine market, paying particular attention to cocaine trafficking through transit areas and its impact. In April 2011, a research paper on the transatlantic

cocaine market[5] was published, highlighting the importance of developing strategies to address the scale of the cocaine threat.

71. In June 2010, the UNODC report entitled "The Globalization of Crime: A Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment"[6] looked at major drug trafficking flows, including cocaine and heroin. The report showed the extent to which illicit drug trafficking flows affect the entire world and how they have become a threat to peace and development.

F. Action by other intergovernmental, international, relevant regional organizations and international financial institutions

72. Various intergovernmental, international and regional organizations are working towards the common aim of countering the world drug problem. On the drug abuse prevention side, UNODC has been working closely with the International Labour Organization on workplace prevention programmes to reduce substance abuse among employees and management, absenteeism and accidents in the workplace, insurance health costs and costs related to changes in personnel.

73. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization has undertaken strong collaboration with UNODC to ensure the quality control of drugs and drug products and promote alternative development measures, which has resulted in a number of joint programmes at the country level. This has also been pursued with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, specifically with respect to the development of policy briefs on drug abuse prevention among young people in institutional settings.

74. UNODC and the World Health Organization are cooperating on a programme on drug dependence treatment and care, which was launched in 2009 and is aimed at promoting and supporting worldwide, evidence-based and ethical treatment policies, strategies and interventions to reduce the health and social burden caused by drug use and dependence.

75. At the policy level, UNODC has been supporting the panels of the United Nations high-level meetings on AIDS, particularly those which relate to prevention, and raising the profile of issues concerning HIV among people who use drugs and those living in prisons and other closed settings. Regional organizations have been pivotal in promoting international cooperation to counter the world drug problem. Such organizations include the African Union, through the Revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012), and ECOWAS. The Organization of American States (OAS) has been involved in the field of drug demand reduction, prevention and research, specifically through a joint project of UNODC and OAS on a subregional system of scientific research, which generates solidly grounded reports on issues related to drug demand reduction on an annual basis.

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[5] Available from www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/Transatlantic_cocaine_market.pdf.

[6] Available from www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tocta/TOCTA_Report_2010_low_res.pdf.

76. The ongoing collaboration between the World Bank and UNODC on the Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative is a strong example of international cooperation to help countries recover assets linked to drug trafficking. Further important partners involved in the law enforcement side of the drug problem are INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization.

V. An integrated approach to programme development at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

77. The integrated, regional approach is designed to take into account overlapping geographic and thematic issues in order to leverage strategic and interlinked responses to the issue of drugs and crime.

78. Started in late 2009, the regional approach focuses on priority areas such as facilitating cross-border cooperation and dialogue and ensuring access to technical expertise in the areas of organized crime, anti-corruption, criminal justice reform, drug demand reduction and HIV, as well as on supporting the implementation of the various international drug and crime control conventions and the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. Integrated UNODC field programmes serve as regional and national hubs of action and expertise where the threat from drugs and crime is particularly severe or rapidly growing.

79. The regional programme captures the interconnected nature of the work of UNODC at the field level and maximizes its added value in addressing transnational threats such as organized crime and drug trafficking. It adopts a bottom-up approach by ensuring: (a) full ownership by partner countries through alignment with regional and national policies and priorities; (b) an integrated framework for transferring UNODC expertise at the regional and national levels; (c) a move from a project-based approach to a programme approach; and (d) close cooperation with other United Nations entities and other multilateral partners.

1. Governance and financial situation

80. The UNODC consolidated budget for drugs and crime for the biennium 2010-2011 amounted to $508.0 million, including $40.8 million from the regular budget of the United Nations. Voluntary contributions are budgeted for $467.3 million, which includes $20.6 million for general purpose resources. This shows that UNODC continues to be highly dependent on voluntary funding (about 90 per cent) and requires adequate, predictable and sustainable resources in order to fulfil its mandates effectively. The present funding system, however, lacks predictability and flexibility and potentially distorts programme priorities.

81. In December 2009, at the time of adoption of the programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2010-2011, the General Assembly expressed concern in its resolution 64/243 at the overall financial situation of UNODC and requested the Secretary-General to submit proposals in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 to ensure that UNODC had sufficient resources to carry out its mandate.

82. While the issues that UNODC addresses are all global challenges and high priorities for the United Nations, the General Assembly allocates to UNODC less

than 1 per cent of the regular budget of the United Nations. The Office needs more adequate core funding in order to be able to continue to meet the growing demand for its services and to sustain its vital support and operational services.

83. In 2010, voluntary contributions amounting to $242.7 million were pledged, an increase of about 13 per cent compared with $215.0 million in 2009. The distribution between drugs (63 per cent) and crime (37 per cent) continues to shift towards crime-related programmes. While UNODC expects an overall increase in voluntary funding for 2010-2011, the level of core funding (general-purpose resources) remains critically low. In view of the continued uncertainty with regard to future contributions to the general-purpose fund, efforts were maintained in 2010 to contain the general-purpose budget through economy measures, as initiated after the sharp decline in contributions in 2009. The 2010 situation of the general-purpose fund improved as a result of a one-time contribution of $7 million to the general-purpose fund of the drug programme fund in 2010, without which the downward trend in general-purpose income would have continued.

84. Voluntary contributions to the activities of UNODC are provided by the following: Governments, consisting of major, emerging and national donors; United Nations agencies; United Nations multi-donor trust funds; intergovernmental organizations, including international financial institutions; and private donors, including private sector entities and foundations.

85. UNODC has experienced a marked shift in the composition of its funding. In 2010, the major donors provided 58 per cent of all voluntary funding, compared with 65 per cent in 2009, whereas emerging and national donors accounted for about 32 per cent (compared with 26 per cent in 2009). Other non-traditional donors, including United Nations entities, international financial institutions and private foundations, increased their share in the overall funding of UNODC to 10 per cent.

86. A number of speakers at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC to be a useful forum for discussion and consultation among Member States and with the Secretariat, and expressed appreciation for its work. In that regard, the Commission approved for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a draft decision to extend the mandate of the working group and adopted resolution 54/10, entitled "Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: recommendations of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime".

2. Cooperation with civil society

87. UNODC cooperates actively with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the areas of drug abuse prevention and treatment. The consensus reached by NGOs through the "Beyond 2008" initiative undertaken by UNODC, in partnership with the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, provided a sound basis for an active and continuous partnership. Since then, policy dialogue between NGOs, Member States, UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board has intensified and progress has been achieved. NGOs are contributing to the work of their Governments in the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on

International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. A pilot project presented at a side event during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs demonstrated good practice of cooperation between NGOs and government in three developing countries. In addition, this Commission adopted resolution 54/11, entitled "Improving the participatory role of civil society in addressing the world drug problem".

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

1. General

88. Illicit drugs and the crime and corruption so often associated with drugs are major threats to security, stability, public health and development around the globe. A balanced and comprehensive approach is the only effective way to eliminate or substantially reduce illicit drug demand, supply and trafficking.

89. While universal accession to the international drug control conventions has almost been achieved, there is still a significant amount of work to be done, both by Governments and the international community, in ensuring that the objectives of the Conventions are achieved, namely, that the use of narcotic drugs is limited to medical and scientific purposes, that there is adequate availability of narcotic drugs for such purposes and that the illicit cultivation and production of, trafficking in and use of narcotic drugs are prevented.

90. The global illicit markets for opiates and cocaine are among the biggest transnational drug and crime threats of our time. The situation with respect to amphetamine-type stimulants also remains a significant global threat. The emergence of new unregulated synthetic compounds such as synthetic cannabinoids or substances that mimic the effects of illicit drugs has presented new challenges to Governments around the world.

91. Illicit financial flows and their linkages to drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime are an important area requiring attention in tackling the illicit drug trade.

92. Understanding these transnational and transregional threats requires detailed local knowledge, as well as a global perspective. Through its programmes, UNODC will continue to support Member States in building a more effective response to these problems.

93. If UNODC is to remain viable in the medium to long term, it needs a more efficient governance system and a funding model that is sustainable, predictable and stable, that combines additional regular budget resources with voluntary contributions and that will strengthen the institutional capacity to deliver, manage and monitor its technical assistance programmes.

2. Health dimension

94. The General Assembly may wish to consider:

(a) Urging Member States to treat drug dependence as a health disorder. Drug dependence is a disease and not a crime. Treatment is a critical component

when countering illicit drug use, and it has been proved far more effective than punishment. Drug abusers need humane and effective treatment;

(b) Inviting the international community to focus more on the demand side. In line with the principles of shared responsibility and a balanced approach to reducing supply and demand, consumer countries, particularly in the regions that create the strongest demand pull, need to strengthen their own efforts to reduce illicit drug use within their borders;

(c) Urging Member States to design comprehensive drug abuse prevention and treatment programmes, as well as HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programmes, including the provision of basic first-line social assistance packages in order to improve the likelihood of success of such programmes;

(d) Urging Member States to work towards effective community strategies, teaching families, teachers, youth leaders and mentors how to assess their local problems related to substance abuse and develop a comprehensive plan to address them;

(e) Urging Member States to develop family skills training programmes to enable parents to protect their children from drug abuse;

(f) Inviting the international community to explore ways in which to ensure universal access to treatment for pain and illness within the international drug control regime. There are, in fact, significant problems with regard to access to medicines that contain internationally controlled substances, especially given limited availability in a number of regions and countries.

3. Supply dimension

95. The General Assembly may wish to consider:

(a) Urging the international community to combat the threats posed by opiates originating in Afghanistan by addressing all links in the chain: assistance to farmers to reduce supply; drug abuse prevention and treatment to curb demand; and law enforcement to counter drug traffickers. In order to further reduce the biggest source of heroin, there must also be better security, development and governance in Afghanistan;

(b) Requesting UNODC to intensify its efforts to assist Member States in combating cocaine trafficking and to engage with relevant international and regional entities to better address its negative human, social and political effects. Efforts must be increasingly coordinated and integrated into an international approach that adapts to new developments in a flexible manner;

(c) Inviting the international community to continue and enhance efforts to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including by countering the shift by traffickers towards the use of non-scheduled substances;

(d) Inviting the international community to continue to invest in alternative livelihood programmes and to increase market access for alternative development products while promoting security, stability and an environment free of corruption, which remain key elements for making such initiatives effective and sustainable.

4. International cooperation against the world drug problem

96. The General Assembly may wish to consider:

(a) Encouraging Member States to address, as a matter of urgency, the need to provide regular, stable and adequate resources to UNODC to enable it to implement all of its core mandates, and to provide support in accordance with the increasing demand for technical assistance from Member States and in order to assure the sustainability of UNODC;

(b) Encouraging Member States to address, as a matter of priority, reinforcing an improved system of governance and providing a stable financial base for UNODC, taking into account the business models of other intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme and the voluntary indicative scale of assessment.

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Crime prevention and criminal justice

United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/231. The report describes the activities undertaken by the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to offer African countries technical support in crime prevention and the strengthening of criminal justice systems. The report describes practical measures proposed by the Institute, emphasizing collaboration, while taking into account the role of local and outsourced resources.

The report highlights the challenges Africa faces in litigation and the management of correctional institutions, especially with regard to sophisticated crime trends. Also covered are difficulties that limit the capacity of the Institute for smooth operation and delivery of services. Opportunities for realizing the much-needed funding to support the programmes of the Institute are discussed.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/231. It offers an overview of the general performance of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in response to the needs of African countries with respect to challenges experienced in crime prevention and criminal justice administration. The report describes the destabilizing impact of high-tech crime in Africa and illustrates specific activities undertaken despite capacity-based difficulties. The report also discusses a range of remedial options and highlights tailored and pragmatic programmes for an effective response to emerging crime trends that go beyond individual national jurisdictions. The report describes the unique criminal justice situation in Africa and, based on the directives of the Governing Board and consistent with resolutions of the General Assembly on crime prevention and criminal justice, explores the practical measures intended to make the Institute a more effective medium for delivery of home-grown and sustainable solutions for the African continent. The report also describes means at the disposal of the Institute to maximize the use of the existing network of partners, including regional and international conventions, to tap relevant expertise and mobilize support for enhancing feasible crime prevention practices.

2. There is a global escalation in the demand for basic commodities and social services, partly as a consequence of the worldwide increase in population. The steady rise in population, however, particularly in Africa, is not matched by food production or the availability of water, energy and wealth to sustain a good standard of living. Climate change and diminishing natural resources have had adverse effects on the precarious food-production capacities. The inadequacy or lack of policies for environmental protection is also having a detrimental effect on the capacity of countries to produce food and cash crops, thereby increasing the chances of recourse to crime.

3. With the growing urbanization of African countries, many urban centres are emerging in hitherto rural hinterlands, rendering the countryside less capable of providing the agricultural produce needed to feed growing urban populations. The problems of unemployment, inflation and poor health care brought by high population density have magnified the threat of crime. Crime prevention strategies will therefore require planners to focus attention on the coordination of activities that promote development based on sustainable agricultural production and preservation of the environment and that offer cheap sources of energy to drive small and medium agro-based industrial enterprises.

4. Developments in international cooperation based on improved worldwide communications between individuals and institutions have spread to the African countries, highlighting the strategic value of global collaboration to tackle crime. However, the wide scope of contacts made possible through online social networks and improved teleconnectivity also opens the door to potential criminal infiltration.

5. High-tech criminal activities such as fraud and identity theft are now a reality in Africa. With development, such crime has assumed subtle aspects and entered Africa, where detection and control mechanisms are still at an embryonic stage. This has been facilitated by the growing trend of international collaboration and

liberalization in commerce, industry and social services. Consequently, Africa is currently recording high levels of transnational organized crime, including cybercrime, money-laundering and trafficking in human beings, drugs and firearms. These emerging forms of crime have caused considerable loss of wealth and inflicted substantial economic damage. The outcome could be a reduction in investment potential and a cutback in the level of services delivered, as well as employment. The available mechanisms for criminal justice management do not seem capable of addressing these emerging forms of crime. However, it is anticipated that with pragmatic and innovative research-based measures and specialized skills, the necessary capacity can be generated to implement tailored programmes to respond to these challenges.

6. In African countries, people are increasingly demanding rule of law, fundamental freedoms, strong democratic institutions and equitable opportunities. There have been calls for strong democratic institutions to guarantee the implementation of necessary reforms that will improve and sustain innovative crime prevention and criminal justice practices and boost security. Africa's strong desire for social justice has lately been manifested in the social movements emerging across the continent and calling for a review of the existing justice management mechanisms. The need for reforms is a manifestation of the inequitable distribution of resources, coupled with growing inadequacies in crime prevention and criminal justice administration in a number of countries. In terms of policy and institutional framework, Africa is a continent in transition. This transition is anchored in the need for fairness and equity, values that are reflected in the Institute's programme goals. The Institute's intention is to play a vital role in spearheading the emerging social justice demands in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other institutions.

7. As decided by the Governing Board, a review of the Institute will be conducted to facilitate its playing a more effective leading role to meet the emerging crime challenges affecting the development of Africa. It is expected that, when fully reviewed, the Institute will be at the forefront to mobilize goodwill from its relevant partners for the implementation of its programme goals through the provision of technical support.

II. Governance and management

A. Governing Board

8. The twelfth session of the Governing Board of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders will be held in Lilongwe on a date yet to be decided. In the meantime, the decisions made at the eleventh session, in Nairobi, continue to provide the basis for operations. Direct consultations between the management of the Institute and the Chair of the Board provide the necessary impetus for the resolution of emerging issues.

9. The Board directed that the Institute be reviewed to assume a more prominent role in dealing with existing crime and criminal justice threats and by considering the calls for reform in existing policy and procedures for the attainment of security and justice. Arrangements to that end have been initiated, and proposals have been

submitted to the review authorities, chaired by the Government of Uganda. Consultations are ongoing among the members of the Board through its Chair, the Government of Malawi, to find suitable mechanisms for improved resource mobilization for the rigorous schedule of activities expected to yield the desired crime prevention and criminal justice results. It is expected that the upcoming conference of African ministers will further promote this ideal.

10. Significant to the efforts of the Governing Board is General Assembly resolution 65/231, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize resources to make the Institute more effective in its operations. Importantly, the Government of Uganda, in its hosting arrangements, has proceeded with preparations for the issuance of a title deed in the name of the Institute for the land on which it is located. The deed is deemed crucial for boosting the capacity of the Institute to increase support from estate development partners. Arrangements to conclude this process are virtually finalized. With the title deed at hand and ownership of the land reaffirmed, the Institute is poised to advance its search for resources for the development of the estate to host the project for the African centre of excellence for criminal justice.

B. General direction and management

11. Crime poses a serious obstacle to socio-economic development and continues to affect the management of public and private institutions, including criminal justice systems in Africa. The Institute's programme activities are geared to sustain the search for remedial measures, with emphasis on specific initiatives designed to maximize the value of available local expertise and other resources for sustainable effect. The Institute is increasing its engagement with the relevant authorities in African countries, trying to mobilize all available resources to make the required interventions in the effort to address crime and the challenges it poses. Through various contacts, including visits to selected capitals, crime problems are identified and measures in response discussed on the basis of the cost-sharing initiative as directed by the Governing Board. The general conviction is that crime prevention should be a general concern for all policy-formulation processes and that countries should be urged to invest in crime prevention strategies. Efforts for social development should incorporate a practical crime prevention component. This will require sustained sensitization campaigns to raise the awareness of all stakeholders. Challenges to the effective implementation of the programme of activities include lack of funding support. Through short-, medium- and long-term plans, the Institute is making arrangements to address the lack of funding.

12. The growing reliance on electronic services through the widespread use of computers, cellular phones and the Internet for the dissemination of information, including on social networks such as Facebook and Twitter, or the use of electronic bank transactions, automatic teller machines and electronic fund transfers has exposed the region to specific vulnerabilities. The utilization of digital technology in the region, where illiteracy levels are high, poses serious concerns, as such developments are subject to abuse and misuse with disastrous consequences, especially identity theft and other types of cybercrime. Pursuant to the emphasis of the General Assembly in its resolution 65/231 on the need to create coalitions, the Institute has developed programmes to raise awareness and provide training and

research through its African Centre for Cyberlaw and Cybercrime Prevention (ACCP).

III. Substantive programmes and activities

A. Overview

13. Popular demands for reforms in crime prevention and criminal justice administration presume the availability of research-based alternatives to provide suitable responses to the status quo. Africa suffers clear deficiencies in criminal justice management skills to deal with sophisticated forms of crime. Owing to the low levels of resource mobilization, activities that would promote effective crime prevention are not implemented. Therefore, crime prevention efforts will have to be considered in conjunction with reliable and sustainable sources of funding support.

B. Project activities

14. The activities on the programme of the Institute are based on member States' identified needs. Owing to financial constraints, the implementation of the programme of activities has been severely compromised and the schedule of planned activities can be developed only in a limited way. However, efforts are being made to explore strategies for alternative funding to support the implementation of activities, including cooperation with well-funded organizations such as academic institutions, civil society organizations, private sector entities, universities and local authorities. Efforts are being made to visit the permanent mission of several African countries in Kampala to raise their awareness of the serious financial situation that is undermining the implementation of the Institute's programme activities. Concern about the situation has been shown, and pledges have been made to contact the various capitals regarding the provision of funds to respond to the severe budget challenges.

1. Research

(a) "From prison back home" project

15. There is a possibility of collaboration with a number of potential partners for most activities under the "From prison back home" project. An Institute staff member is usually the resource person at the meetings of the Africa Correctional Services Association, Prisons Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA) and the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA). The Institute is scheduled to participate in the ICPA meeting in Singapore from 11 to 16 September 2011 to strengthen collaboration in areas of concern. The Institute and PRAWA are participating in a joint project of Prison Reform Intervention in Africa (PRIA), which is funded by the Government of the Netherlands. The PRIA project is entering its final stages, and the Institute has been actively involved in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zambia. The African branch of Prison Fellowship International (PFI), which is heavily dependent on staff expertise and technical assistance from the Institute, has held two preparatory meetings in Addis Ababa and is scheduled to participate actively in the World Convocation in Canada, from 28 June to 2 July 2011. The Institute has been

designated to promote regional research projects aimed at improving correctional policy in Africa and at offsetting the difficulties of prison management, for which coalition funding may be possible. Discussions are continuing with the Commonwealth Secretariat for further collaboration after the Commonwealth workshop on alternative sentencing and reduction of prison overcrowding, where two Institute staff served as resource persons. At the last conference, in Kigali in May 2011, the Institute, as a key stakeholder, was tasked with the responsibility of dealing with the correctional policy programmes of the Commonwealth in Africa. The challenges posed by correctional management in Africa are undermining efforts aimed at successful social rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners. Together with national authorities, the Institute is scheduled to tackle the problem of overcrowding through necessary reforms in policy and practice to strengthen human rights-based programmes in correctional institutions in Africa. Such programmes cover parole, probation, community-service orders, after-care services, rehabilitation and successful reintegration of offenders in identified communities. After Eastern African countries, the countries scheduled for the next correctional course include the Gambia, Ghana, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

(b) Cyberwatch project

16. Inaugurated in August 2010, the African Center for Cyberlaw and Cybercrime Prevention has ongoing arrangements with the Central Bank of Uganda by which all commercial banks will be mobilized to participate in the planned sensitization activities against identity theft in Uganda. A full report on the launch of the ACCP sensitization workshop has been prepared. Subsequently, it is planned to extend the project to the entire Eastern African region and other regions of Africa. It is expected that the success of the activities in Uganda will attract the interest of other countries.

(c) African Journal on Crime and Criminal Justice

17. The second edition of the *African Journal on Crime and Criminal Justice*, containing research articles on crime prevention and criminal justice by international scholars and practitioners, is currently being prepared, thanks to the financial assistance of the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences for printing. Articles have been received and are being processed for publication before August 2011.

18. The *Journal* continues to be a vital link to existing and potential partners, particularly in the light of the Institute's financial difficulties. It is a channel for maintaining essential contacts with experts across the world. Many universities, individual scholars and research institutions have expressed interest in subscribing to the *Journal*. Subscriptions are a source of much-needed support for this important instrument to promote regional cooperation and to highlight the Institute's objectives.

(d) Country crime data bank

19. The compilation of sources of crime data in African countries is an ongoing effort. Through contacts, the Institute continues to update and build the databank, and opportunities for developing national focal points are beginning to emerge.

(e) Status of implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners by African countries

20. Completed questionnaires have been returned by 17 out of 30 countries. The collected data are currently being analysed, and a complete report will soon be published, the recommendations of which will form the basis for collaboration with UNODC for joint implementation.

2. Training

21. In the light of budgetary constraints, the Institute limited its training-related activities to the following:

(a) Ongoing discussions with prospective sources of funds to replicate short courses for improving criminal justice systems targeting regions that have indicated interest;

(b) Ongoing efforts to organize a regional meeting of experts to discuss strategies for implementing the "Exam watch" project;

(c) A sensitization and training workshop on identity theft in August 2010, on the occasion of the launch of ACCP, participants included bankers and judicial officials, practitioners and scholars. Efforts are being made with the commercial sector in Uganda to widen the scope of sensitization about identity theft to include other stakeholders, first in Uganda and subsequently in other parts of Africa.

3. Information dissemination

(a) Production of reports

22. A report on the inauguration of ACCP will soon be issued. Other reports describing the Institute's activities and its programme of work for 2011-2012 will soon be published online.

(b) Modernization of the information centre

23. The information centre continues to be updated. Accessible worldwide, the Online Public Access Catalogue is one of the major channels for the dissemination of information by the Institute.

(c) Website

24. The website is a useful tool for enhancing the visibility of the Institute. Many visitors to the Institute's website make useful suggestions and could become partners.

4. Cooperation

(a) Effective cooperation between the Institute and its partners

25. Substantial support is derived from collaboration with several partners. The Institute values its partnerships with local, regional and international stakeholders, which include universities, research institutions and civil society. The Institute also cooperates with regional institutions such as the East African Community, African Union, Economic Community of West African States, Southern African

Development Community and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), as well as with such United Nations organizations as the United Nations Development Programme, UNODC, the United Nations Children's Fund and institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network.

IV. International cooperation and partnerships

26. The implementation of crime prevention activities and the strengthening of criminal justice systems require a coordinated effort, drawing skills, resources, expertise and capacity from a range of sources. Crime has become extraordinarily fluid and sophisticated, posing unprecedented threats to the development of all nations of the world. Cooperation at the global level and collaboration for the implementation of regional and international conventions and mechanisms to safeguard international order are essential. The Institute is a regional mechanism to promote cooperation among all agencies in the search for effective and sustainable measures focused on crime prevention and criminal justice measures. With the assistance of coalitions, networks and partnerships, the Institute's activities and its access to the necessary support and bilateral contacts will be greatly facilitated.

27. The Institute participated in several meetings at the local, regional and international levels to advance dialogue with interested stakeholders.

V. Funding and support

28. The total income of the Institute for 2010 was $462,637, some 25 per cent less than the previous year's income of $578,423. The decrease is attributable to the decline in receipts from assessed contributions from member States ($70,965 in 2010 compared to $383,270 in 2009), a result of economic hardships affecting them. The sources of income for 2010 were as follows:

(a) Assessed contributions from member States, $70,965 (15 per cent);

(b) The 2010 portion of the United Nations grant, $266,900 (58 per cent);

(c) Other income received from the rental of the premises and facilities of the Institute, as well as interest on deposits, $124,773 (27 per cent).

29. For the period from January to May 2010, the total resources of the Institute were valued at $272,195, comprising the following:

(a) The 2011 portion of the United Nations grant for the biennium 2010-2011, $98,400, to pay part of the salaries of staff members in the Professional category;

(b) Assessed contributions from member States, $34,368;

(c) Other income from the rental of the Institute's premises, $139,427.

A. Assessed financial contributions from member States

30. During the reporting period (January 2010-May 2011), the Institute was able to collect $105,333.18 from the following member States: Cameroon ($34,368), Kenya ($8,410.79), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya ($29,495.63), Mozambique ($6,548.05), Seychelles ($22,655) and Uganda ($3,855.38).

31. Of the total amount of $5,431,916 expected to be received by the Institute for the period 1989-2011, only $2,520,740.33 had been received as at 31 May 2011, leaving an outstanding balance of $2,911,175.67.

32. The failure of a number of member States to honour their financial commitments to the Institute has adversely affected its performance. A number of approved programme activities have remained unimplemented for some time now. In order to find a lasting solution to this problem, at its eleventh session, held in Nairobi on 27 and 28 April, the Governing Board resolved to change the mode of assessing member States' contributions. Instead of having a fixed rate of contribution ranging from $4,150 (for most member States) to $49,000 (for a few members, including the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Nigeria), it was resolved that the total biennium budget should be allocated by applying a scale of assessment similar to that used by the African Union.

33. On the basis of the new mode of assessment, the Board approved a biennium budget of $4,130,690. That amount was expected to be raised from: (a) assessed contributions from member States ($3,016,060), (b) the United Nations grant ($365,300), (c) leased or rented premises ($184,630) and (d) donations from countries and agencies ($550,000).

34. As a result of the new budgetary proposal, member States' annual contributions to the biennium budget vary. The approved annual contribution from member States for the biennium 2011-2012 ranges from $25,000 (for the least developed member States) to $226,205 (for a few countries, including Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Nigeria).

35. In addition to revising annual assessed contributions from member States, at its eleventh session the Governing Board appointed an eleven-member committee to review the operations of the Institute, including by exploring opportunities for enhanced funding support from all stakeholders. The recommendations of the committee will be passed on to the Board for ratification and implementation by the stakeholders.

B. United Nations grant

36. The revised appropriation for the Institute under the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 amounts to $365,300, which is slightly lower than the amount for the previous biennium, $374,300. The actual receipts from the United Nations as reported by the executing agent (ECA) amounted to $364,300. However, expenditure already incurred and expected during the remaining portion of the biennium 2010-2011 will amount to $697,900 and has already been or will be expended on the salaries of the core posts in the Professional category (Director, Deputy Director, Research Adviser and Administration/Finance Officer). As can be

seen, even with the delayed recruitment of the Training Adviser and the Information and Documentation Adviser, the grant provided will cover only part of the salaries of the core staff, equivalent to about 16 months of salary payments, while the additional requirements will be met from the assessed contributions of member States. However, given the history of irregular payments from member States, there are growing concerns that the payment of Professional staff salaries may be subject to uncertainties and significant setbacks, including the possibility of prolonged delays in payment for the period from July to December 2011.

37. In paragraphs 10 and 11 of its resolution 65/231, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to (a) intensify efforts to mobilize all relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide the necessary financial and technical support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its mandate and (b) continue his efforts to mobilize the financial resources necessary to maintain the core Professional staff required to enable the Institute to function effectively in the fulfilment of its obligations. A request by the Institute to the General Assembly to consider increasing the grant from $365,300 to the required $697,900 remains outstanding for consideration. This has caused a delay in the recruitment of both the Training Adviser and the Information/Documentation Adviser.

C. Other income

38. The following revenue was received: $235,903.21 from leased premises, $26,088.23 from rented premises and $2,208.11 from banking operations (interest receivable and gain on exchange transactions).

VI. Future of the Institute

39. The future of the Institute lies in the successful implementation of its planned programme of activities, which is directly linked to a prompt response to the crime prevention and criminal justice needs of African countries. The limitation to the achievement of this ideal continues to be insufficient budgetary support for the daunting task of fulfilling the crime prevention agenda for the African region.

40. The precarious financial situation has significantly undermined the capacity of the Institute to deliver its services effectively. Africa is a vulnerable region where attempts to solve the crime problem call for self-sustaining operations. It is a vast region, endowed with so much wealth in resources, yet so unexploited for the general good of the public. This situation makes the African region and its resources particularly vulnerable to exploitation by criminal organizations: the region's frequent upheavals and fragile security situation foster widespread, sophisticated and highly organized criminal exploitation of resources. However, the prevention of crime is now a global value shared by all peoples of the world. The future of the Institute will depend largely on opening up non-traditional sources to boost the weak budgetary support from conventional sources, such as financial inflows from member States, which are irregular and often insufficient for the planned schedule of activities.

41. The Institute has benefited so far from collective worldwide policy action and international frameworks aimed at facilitating the development of practical remedial

initiatives to strengthen crime prevention efforts. There are justified fears about the possibility of crime thriving where there is a shortage of skilled personnel, inadequate infrastructure, lack of effective legislation, lack of modern equipment for criminal investigations, inappropriate criminal justice systems and weak institutions for enforcing the rule of law. Effective crime prevention is a product of strong human rights advocacy, and criminal justice is one of the components of good governance and democratic order. The Institute is therefore expected to blend the requisite virtues of good governance based on the rule of law with the commitment to building functional institutions to uphold a democratic culture. Considering that resource deficiency is the key obstacle to effective crime prevention and strengthened criminal justice systems, it is crucial that the Institute devise alternative means to create a strong foundation for bilateral relations with identified strategic partner organizations.

42. Reports available to the Institute indicate that African countries are facing serious challenges in the management of their prisons. Major problems include poor sanitation and health due to insufficient infrastructure; poor recordkeeping; overpopulation, related to the incarceration of pretrial suspects; a punitive culture; high levels of recidivism; and protracted litigation periods. All these point to the nature of criminal justice administration and the existing legislative framework, which do not support the swift disposition of cases. In pretrial cases in which prisoners are being held because of technicalities or lack of legal representation, the Institute is mandated to sensitize prison authorities to apply international conventions such as the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Lilongwe Declaration on Accessing Legal Aid in the Criminal Justice System in Africa and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (Tokyo Rules) to hasten the process of hearings with and to reduce and control the size of the prison population through reforms in correctional policy that allow alternatives to imprisonment and emphasize non-custodial and rehabilitative sentences, with a focus on successful social reintegration.

43. In its resolution 65/231 the General Assembly commended the Institute for its efforts to promote and coordinate regional technical cooperation and reiterated the need to strengthen the capacity of the Institute to support national mechanisms for crime prevention and criminal justice. The Institute should explore, in conjunction with national authorities, all workable solutions, particularly those based on relevant traditional systems of crime prevention and criminal justice. UNODC deserves special recognition for nurturing and spearheading the collaboration with the Institute to implement activities consistent with the Revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012). Africa has long been seen as the custodian of unique traditions, such as extended family networks, and the Institute should endeavour, through its research-based policy action, to incorporate, make known and implement the relevant aspects of such traditions to assist the region in coping with the crime problem and challenges of criminal justice. The assimilation of relevant traditional practices in crime prevention policy has the benefit of cost-effectiveness for Africa, where alternative measures are costly. The Institute therefore needs to accelerate reforms in the law to give legitimacy to new and cost-effective practices to combat crime. This will give Africa a broad range of options with which to respond to the crime problem.

44. One of the Institute's goals is to sensitize all countries against being used as sources, conduits or destinations of criminal activities, through the enactment of legislation, technical support for training law enforcement agencies and regional and international forums where good practices and knowledge are shared with local and international experts. The Institute would have to consolidate consultations with line ministries in African countries to identify specific threats and devise tailored remedial measures. Discussions would have to centre on the need for focal persons in each capital to promote the Institute's goals and take up issues relating to its support with the national authorities. Through established research and academic institutions, the Institute would enhance collaboration by focusing on the production of empirical data to develop policies based on the realities of each country. It is envisaged that success on this front will further help to improve the visibility of the Institute and thus mobilize support.

VII. Conclusion

45. The concept of globalization is relevant to challenges brought about by crime, which are spilling over all continents with disastrous effects. Because crime moves and inflicts harm across boundaries, concerted efforts must be made to respond to the threat it poses to nations of the world. A multipronged approach will help to keep the activities of criminal organizations in check. Such an approach will include appropriate legislation, effective criminal justice, sensitization of the population, training of criminal justice personnel and continued research to identify emerging threats posed by crime. Success in prevention presupposes a pre-emptive effort to forestall the commission of crime, and this calls for the involvement of all stakeholders, utilizing national, regional and international initiatives. Capacities created by regional institutes are valuable and will assist in providing a basic framework for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of efforts to combat crime. The special relationship between such institutes and the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders should be maximized and supported by the international community and member States.

46. The Institute will continue to market itself by designing useful packages of activities that meet the needs of prospective partners and by placing itself as a strategic and viable entity. Useful insights can come from the region to inform international policy, particularly with regard to traditional systems of crime prevention and criminal justice. Efforts should be made to explore and develop the good practices in Africa with a view to incorporating them in mainstream legislative mechanisms, as appropriate. The Institute's success in this regard will enhance its legitimacy among member States and its effectiveness. This will create the critical mass the Institute needs to assert itself in the mobilization of the support and resources it needs to function. The Institute will have to strengthen its research work, as one of the avenues to tap into the realities of each country's needs and discover vital clues leading to possible partnerships. While in the short term resource mobilization seems to be a challenge, in the long run, with carefully thought-out strategies, it will be overcome through regional and international collaboration. The overall outcome will yield great rewards in terms of international peace and stability, and the new era that emerges out of a stable environment will be conducive to development and prosperity.

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Sixty-sixth session
Items 99 (o), (r) and (x) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Nuclear disarmament

Reducing nuclear danger

Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to requests contained in General Assembly resolutions 65/56, 65/60 and 65/76.

2. In paragraph 22 of resolution 65/56, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

3. In paragraph 5 of resolution 65/60, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute towards the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified in the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war (see A/56/400, para. 3), and also to continue to encourage Member States to consider the convening of an international conference, as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2), to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

4. In paragraph 3 of resolution 65/76, the General Assembly requested all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they have taken on the implementation of the resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requested the Secretary-General to apprise the General Assembly of that information at its sixty-sixth session.

II. Observations

5. Some progress was achieved in the first half of 2010 towards the objective of a world free of nuclear weapons. Yet, consensus agreements have continued to elude the forums for the development of new international law relating to the elimination of nuclear weapons, including in the Conference on Disarmament and the United Nations Disarmament Commission. At the same time, some Governments and civil society organizations have initiated new efforts aimed at elaborating innovative solutions:

(a) On 22 September 2010, Australia and Japan co-hosted a ministerial meeting on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in New York on the sidelines of the General Assembly. Ten countries, including Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Turkey and United Arab Emirates, participated in the meeting, the purpose of which was, inter alia, to follow up on the recommendations of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament. On 30 April 2011, Germany convened a second ministerial meeting of the group in Berlin, at which they agreed, inter alia, on steps for action on key elements of the Action Plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT);

(b) Following from its efforts to promote 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests, in February 2011 Kazakhstan, in partnership with the EastWest Institute launched the "Nuclear Discussion Forum", which included six meetings between February and July 2011 aimed at facilitating in-depth discussions on current events in the discourse on nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament, and security;

(c) Members of the informal core group of friends that promoted the Secretary-General's five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament, most recently led by Uruguay in partnership with Mayors for Peace, have continued their efforts to pursue new and innovative means for building international consensus on a road map for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, including by means of a universal, legal instrument.

6. Civil society and other international actors worked to build significant international political momentum for nuclear disarmament, including the non-exhaustive list of notable examples as follows:

(a) On 20 June 2011, the United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution, inter alia, calling on all world leaders to implement the Secretary-General's five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament, so that a nuclear weapons convention or a separate framework of mutually reinforcing legal instruments can be agreed upon by 2020;

(b) On 25 June 2011, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons spearheaded international events in 25 countries to commemorate nuclear abolition day;

(c) The Global Zero campaign held meetings in 2011 in Washington, D.C. and London, bringing together high-level Government officials with prominent political, military and civil society leaders to discuss the elimination of nuclear weapons;

(d) Following from the 2007 article published in *The Wall Street Journal* by former statesmen from the United States of America, an editorial in support of a world free of nuclear weapons was published by former statesmen from the Russian Federation.

7. Nuclear-weapon States continued to take steps related to reducing their overall stockpiles of deployed nuclear warheads, increase transparency and accountability, and advance the implementation of their nuclear disarmament commitments:

(a) From 30 June to 1 July 2011, the nuclear-weapon States met in Paris for the second Conference on confidence-building measures towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, to follow up on their commitments made at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the London Conference on Confidence-Building Measures towards Nuclear Disarmament in September 2009. The nuclear-weapon States issued a joint statement, in which they, inter alia, reported that they had met with determination to work together in pursuit of nuclear disarmament under article VI of the Treaty, including engagement on the steps outlined in Action 5, as well as reporting and other efforts called for in the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan; described progress made towards the elaboration of an agreed glossary of definitions for key nuclear terms and reported that they had established a dedicated working group to continue this work; discussed particular political and technical challenges associated with verification in achieving further progress towards disarmament and ensuring non-proliferation, and pledged to continue this discussion later this year at an expert-level meeting in London; and indicated that they will follow on their discussions and hold a third Conference in the context of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference;

(b) On 5 February 2011, the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms entered into force with the exchange of instruments of ratification between Russia and the United States. The Bilateral Consultative Commission established pursuant to the Treaty began work in March 2011, and the parties also initiated the regular release of public information pertaining to their aggregate holdings of nuclear warheads accountable under the Treaty;

(c) On 19 November 2010, at the Lisbon Summit, the Heads of State and Government of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) adopted a new strategic concept that placed less emphasis on the political and military significance of nuclear weapons, endorsed further nuclear arms reductions and arms control negotiations with the Russian Federation, and for the first time addressed the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world;

(d) On 19 October 2010, the United Kingdom released its Strategic Defence and Security Review, in which it, inter alia, provided assurances that it will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and announced reductions in its stockpile of nuclear warheads.

8. Despite these steps, the number of nuclear weapons in national arsenals remains in the many thousands, including thousands of warheads maintained on high-alert status and capable of launch within minutes of a decision to do so. Several nuclear-weapon States remain committed to the doctrine of nuclear deterrence based on the contemplated first use of nuclear weapons. Nuclear-weapon States have continued to plan and implement major new programmes aimed at modernizing their nuclear arsenals, their delivery systems and their related research and development infrastructure and have continued to research, develop and deploy new nuclear weapons with new military capabilities.

9. While the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty continues to lack the necessary ratifications for its entry into force, the recent ratification by one Member State is a welcome development. The fifth ministerial meeting for promoting the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty convened on 23 September 2010 and issued a Ministerial Declaration, in which it called upon all States that have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty.

10. The Conference on Disarmament, at its 2011 session, has continued to be unable to start substantive work on the basis of an agreed programme of work. This situation has given rise to increasing concern regarding the current status of the multilateral disarmament machinery and the relevance of the Conference on Disarmament, prompting some States to begin the consideration of alternative options. Towards breaking the impasse in the Conference on Disarmament, on 24 September 2010, the Secretary-General convened a high-level meeting on the theme, "Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral negotiations". Following from the discussion, the Secretary-General, inter alia, asked his Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters to carry out a thorough review of the issues raised in the high-level meeting, and proposed that the General Assembly follow up on the matter, both in the plenary and in the First Committee. The First Committee discussed the matter at its sixty-fifth session, leading to the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 65/93. The General Assembly discussed the matter at a plenary session convened on 27 July 2011.

11. The United Nations Disarmament Commission, convening in April 2011 for the third part of its three-year cycle, was unable to reach consensus on substantive matters pertaining to its three agenda items: recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons; elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade; and practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. The persistent inability of the Commission to reach consensus on its substantive work has given rise to new concerns regarding its working methods and questions regarding its broader role within the context of the United Nations disarmament machinery.

12. The Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs have continued their efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation globally through direct interaction with Governments, civil society, civic leaders and parliamentarians, advocacy and other outreach activities. In particular, in August 2010, the Secretary-General visited Japan to participate in commemorations marking the sixty-fifth anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In addition, messages by the Secretary-General were delivered to, inter alia, the fifty-ninth Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs; meetings in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Tokyo organized by the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs to launch a signature campaign for the start of negotiations for a convention banning nuclear weapons; and the second Conference of the Nuclear-Weapon States on confidence-building measures towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In May 2011, the Secretary-General published an op-ed, in which he urged the Members of the Conference on Disarmament to seize the moment and advance disarmament goals. The Secretary-General also attended and delivered statements at, inter alia, the opening meeting of the 2011 session of the Conference on Disarmament; the conference held on the theme "Promoting the Global Instruments of Non-proliferation and Disarmament: The United Nations and the Nuclear Challenge", organized by the Permanent Missions of Japan, Poland and Turkey to the United Nations; and the plenary session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral negotiations.

III. Information received from Governments

13. By a note verbale dated 9 March 2011, all Member States were invited to inform the Secretary-General by 31 May 2011 of the efforts and measures they had taken with regard to the implementation of resolution 65/76, concerning the follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*. To date, Cuba, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Turkmenistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) have sent replies, the texts of which are reproduced below. Additional replies received from Member States will be issued as addenda to the present report.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[7 June 2011]

The advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons is unquestionably a historic document in the field of nuclear disarmament and constitutes a legal precedent which requires appropriate follow-up.

Under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the nuclear-weapon States, along with the other States parties to the Treaty, are obliged to pursue negotiations with a view to nuclear disarmament.

At present there are some 22,600 nuclear weapons, 12,000 of which are ready for immediate use. These weapons and the so-called doctrines of nuclear deterrence create a global climate of instability and insecurity. The only way to prevent further nuclear catastrophes is to completely eliminate and permanently ban nuclear weapons.

Cuba sees the commitments regarding the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons under START III, which entered into force on 5 February 2011 between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the United States of America, as a positive sign. It considers that those commitments should not give rise to a generalized sense of complacency or divert attention away from our ultimate goal of eliminating and banning nuclear weapons within a specific time frame through a legally binding international agreement providing for irreversible and internationally verifiable measures.

Cuba also welcomes the modest steps taken at the eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty. The agreements reached nonetheless remain far from what is required at this point in time, since the final outcome made it very plain that there is still a wide gap between the rhetoric and good intentions repeated time and again by some nuclear-weapon States and the commitments and practical measures they are actually willing to undertake.

Cuba recalls that the non-aligned countries that are parties to the Treaty have proposed the adoption of a phased programme leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons by 2025, which would include the adoption of a nuclear weapons convention.

Paragraph E of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons states that "the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law".

Thus, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, a legally binding international instrument must be concluded, as a matter of priority, whereby nuclear-weapon States would undertake not to use or threaten to use such weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States. The Conference on Disarmament is the appropriate forum for the negotiation and adoption of such an instrument.

Likewise, Cuba is in favour of beginning negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and effectively verifiable treaty

banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. This treaty should represent a new step towards achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and, accordingly, should contain both non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament measures.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[31 March 2011]

1. The Government of Iraq is firmly committed to its responsibility to respect and implement disarmament and non-proliferation instruments. The Government is committed not only to those instruments but also to international arrangements relating to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. In that connection, article 9 (e) of the Iraqi Constitution provides that the Iraqi Government shall respect and implement Iraq's international obligations regarding the non-proliferation, non-development, non-production and non-use of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and shall prohibit associated equipment, materiel, technologies, and delivery systems for use in the development, manufacture, production and use of such weapons.

2. The National Monitoring Directorate established by the Iraqi Government has drafted a law that would lead to the creation of a permanent, unified national system that will enable Iraq to fulfil its commitments under instruments concerning the non-proliferation of chemical and biological weapons and their delivery systems. That law would apply to all peaceful activities, including those related to material, equipment and technology, and related production, possession, use, storage, import, export, transport, disposal and other activities, in order to ensure that they are not diverted to prohibited activities, and would prescribe penalties. It would also put in place mechanisms for submitting declarations, issuing permits and tracing dual-use substances, in accordance with the Safeguards Agreement pursuant to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the chemical weapons verification regime and the Biological Weapons Convention.

3. Iraq acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1969 and signed the Protocol Additional to the Safeguards Agreement on 9 October 2008. The Additional Protocol is currently before the Council of Representatives for ratification. Iraq formally notified the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that, on 17 February 2010, it had begun to apply voluntarily the Additional Protocol, in accordance with its article 17. In that connection, Iraq submitted its initial declaration on 16 July 2010. Iraq also ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention in February 2009, signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 19 August 2008 and became a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction in 1991.

4. The Government of Iraq stresses the importance of implementing the decisions that were adopted at the 1995 Review Conference upon the indefinite extension of the Treaty and the 13 practical steps that were adopted by the 2000 Review Conference, which constitute a programme of action to enhance the credibility of the Treaty and the review process itself.

5. Iraq lent its full support to the programme of work adopted by the Conference on Disarmament at its 2009 session. That programme is the best basis for making progress towards negotiations on a treaty prohibiting the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, as well as for taking practical measures towards nuclear disarmament, obtaining negative security assurances and preventing an arms race in outer space.

6. On 11 August 2010, Iraq signed the Hague Code of Conduct, thereby becoming the 131st subscribing State, and will submit its initial declaration in 2011.

7. Despite recent positive developments at the international level, nuclear-weapon States continue to maintain most of their nuclear arsenals and to develop new types of nuclear weapons and related delivery systems, and the situation continues to be a cause of concern. Agreement must be reached on the need to conclude a binding international legal instrument that would provide non-nuclear-weapon States with assurances that nuclear-weapon States will not use or threaten to use such weapons against them, as well as the means by which progress can be made towards that aim. Negative security assurances are a major step along that road, quite apart from being a legitimate and just demand on the part of non-nuclear-weapon States, which have voluntarily renounced any military nuclear options by becoming parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. While effective measures and arrangements to provide non-nuclear-weapon States with such assurances can make a positive contribution to nuclear non-proliferation, they are no substitute for complete nuclear disarmament.

8. The gradual elimination of nuclear weapons will build trust between States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and will provide States non-parties with an incentive to become parties thereto. It will also allay apprehensions arising from the capabilities and security doctrines of certain nuclear-weapon States. In that connection, we stress our commitment to the 8 July 1996 International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, which affirmed that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and that States have an obligation to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

9. Iraq appreciates that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones would give impetus to nuclear disarmament efforts, enhance the security of the States involved and bring us closer to the ultimate goal of achieving and maintaining international peace and security. It has therefore supported and participated in efforts to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones in every region of the world, including, in particular, in the Middle East. In that connection, Iraq would like to emphasize the relevance of Security Council resolutions 487 (1981) and 687 (1991). Any effort to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East must begin with basic steps that include the nuclear disarmament of Israel, its accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and placement of its nuclear installations under IAEA comprehensive safeguards. Iraq supports the convening in 2012 of an international conference on the establishment of zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. All States in the region should participate in such a conference, which should take the 1995 resolution as its terms of reference.

Jamaica

[Original: English]
[31 May 2011]

The Government of Jamaica does not manufacture nor possess nuclear weapons.

Jamaica remains supportive of international efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament and promote international cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology as outlined in article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Jamaica's contribution to the disarmament and non-proliferation process is reflected in its support of efforts to attain universal adherence to multilateral disarmament treaties. It is for this reason Jamaica supports the tenets of and has ratified the major nuclear weapons treaties; and is a long-standing party to the first nuclear-weapon-free zone — the Treaty of Tlatelolco (OPANAL).

Japan

[Original: English]
[27 May 2011]

Being the only country to have suffered the horrific effects of atomic bombings, Japan firmly believes that it is essential to intensify efforts to maintain and enhance current momentum towards the realization of a world without nuclear weapons, and continues to exercise its leadership by proposing and taking practical and incremental measures and ensuring their steady implementation.

The following are some of the recent efforts and measures that Japan has taken in order to take forward nuclear disarmament.

1. Submission of resolutions on nuclear disarmament to the United Nations General Assembly

Every year since 1994, the Government of Japan has submitted its resolutions on nuclear disarmament to the United Nations General Assembly.

In 2010, taking into consideration the recent international situation surrounding nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Japan once again submitted its draft resolution on nuclear disarmament to the United Nations General Assembly. On 8 December 2010, the draft resolution was adopted at the plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly by an overwhelming majority of 173 votes in favour.

Although the situation surrounding nuclear disarmament remains challenging, in response to the political will of a large majority of the international community, which was expressed through the adoption of this resolution, Japan intends to pursue its various diplomatic efforts to maintain and reinforce the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

2. Efforts for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

Japan attaches great importance to the early entry into force of the CTBT, which constitutes one of the major pillars of the NPT regime. At bilateral meetings and international forums Japan has been calling for States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so at an early stage. On 23 September 2010, the Friends of the CTBT (Australia, Canada, Finland, Japan and the Netherlands) and the Article XIV Coordinators (France and Morocco), co-hosted the fifth ministerial meeting on the CTBT in New York. At the meeting the then Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Seiji Maehara, appealed to the political leaders of those remaining Annex 2 States for their leadership to act decisively for early signature and ratification of the Treaty.

Through its advanced seismological observation technology, Japan has provided technical assistance to developing countries in order to support the development of the International Monitoring System, and at the same time, to facilitate broader adherence to the CTBT by making it easier for these countries to implement necessary measures required under the Treaty. Specifically, from January to March 2011, Japan invited 10 administrative officers from various countries, who are expected to play a role in a global seismological network for nuclear tests, to attend its global seismological observation training course in order to have opportunities to acquire knowledge and advanced techniques of global seismological observation.

3. Efforts for revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament and for the commencement of fissile material cut-off treaty negotiations

The Conference on Disarmament has been paralysed over the recent years. Despite the agreement reached on a programme of work in 2009, the Conference on Disarmament could not reach an agreement on implementing the programme of work and remains in stagnation. In order to break the paralysis, the Government of Japan supported and actively participated in the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament in September 2010, convened by the Secretary-General. At the meeting the then Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Maehara, expressed regret for the paralysis of function of the Conference on Disarmament and appealed for immediate commencement of its work and advancement of its core agenda items. Furthermore, Mr. Maehara called for placing a deadline on the discussions in the Conference on Disarmament and proposed to explore alternative paths in case of failure in making progress. Japan has also actively taken part in the follow-up discussions with like-minded countries in Geneva and New York after the high-level meeting.

Japan regards a fissile material cut-off treaty as a concrete and immediate step to be undertaken to achieve "a world without nuclear weapons", and has been leading, with other like-minded countries, the international efforts for early commitment of its negotiations as a matter of highest priority within the Conference on Disarmament. For example, the Governments of Japan and Australia have recently co-hosted a series of expert side events on a fissile material cut-off treaty in Geneva, which is open to all Conference on Disarmament members and observer States, for the purpose of advancing substantive discussions on the treaty. Japan and Australia intend to report the outcome of the discussions at the event to the

Conference on Disarmament in the capacity of the Chair, hoping that it would contribute to the future negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament by further deepening technical discussions. Japan also makes efforts for fissile material cut-off treaty negotiations in the framework of the foreign ministers' meeting on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, which Japan launched together with Australia and other countries last September (see sect. 5).

4. Implementation of the Action Plan in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference

The 2010 NPT Review Conference adopted a comprehensive and forward-looking Final Document that included an Action Plan for all the three pillars of the Treaty.

The Government of Japan and the Government of Australia hosted a ministerial meeting on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation together with eight other like-minded countries (Canada, Chile, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates) in September 2010. The objectives of the meeting were to take forward the consensus outcomes of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and to jointly advance the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agendas as mutually reinforcing processes. From short and midterm perspectives, it focused on measures to reduce nuclear risks on the path towards "a world without nuclear weapons". The participants unanimously adopted the Joint Statement by Foreign Ministers. In this statement, the ministers committed to work together on practical measures for realizing these objectives.

On 30 April, the second foreign ministers' meeting on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation took place in Berlin. The participants unanimously adopted the Berlin Statement, which lists several priority items in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation fields such as an early commencement of fissile material cut-off treaty negotiations and increased transparency measures by nuclear-weapon States. The group of 10 States, now named the "Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative", decided to take concrete actions to reduce nuclear risks, especially focusing on priority items listed in the Berlin Statement.

5. Cooperation for denuclearization in Russia

At the Kananaskis Summit in June 2002, the Group of Eight (G-8) leaders announced the G-8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction to address non-proliferation, disarmament, counter-terrorism and nuclear safety issues. The Government of Japan committed itself, for the purpose of the Partnership, to make a contribution amounting to over US$ 200 million, out of which $100 million was to be allocated to the G-8 disposition programme of Russian surplus weapons-grade plutonium and the rest to projects for dismantling decommissioned Russian nuclear submarines. Since then Japan has extended cooperation to Russia and completed the dismantlement of six decommissioned nuclear submarines. Furthermore, based on the decision in 2006, Japan will provide three equipments for cooperation for the construction of the long-term storage facility for reactor compartment units at Razboynik Bay by the end of 2011.

6. Efforts to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education

Since 1983, Japan has invited more than 700 participants in the United Nations disarmament fellowship programme to Japan, including the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This has provided these young officials, who will be responsible for future disarmament diplomacy, with an opportunity to witness the horrendous and long-lasting consequences caused by atomic bombs. Japan will continue to contribute to this programme.

Japan believes that the international community should be well informed of the destructive effects of nuclear weapons. In accordance with the wish of the people of Japan that such weapons never be used again, the Government of Japan has supported, on a number of occasions, the efforts of local governments and NGOs in foreign countries to organize exhibitions relating to atomic bombs. Within the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Saitama, the session on the theme "A Nuclear-Weapon-Free World" was held with prominent educators in August 2010.

Japan hosted a reception and concert together with the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations on 3 May 2010, the first day of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, in honour of the Hibakusha (people who survived the 1945 atomic bombings of Japan) and their work with young people to raise awareness of the dangers of nuclear weapons.

Japan submitted a joint working paper with the United Nations University, entitled "Disarmament and non-proliferation education: promoting cooperation with civil society towards a world without nuclear weapons" for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which included proposals such as holding a global forum on disarmament and non-proliferation education that would bring together civil society and Governments and employing modern technologies to digitally record Hibakusha's testimonies and to disseminate them to future generations. In this context, Japan delivered a joint statement on disarmament and non-proliferation education on behalf of 42 countries at the 2010 NPT Review Conference Main Committee I.

Japan has started to appoint Hibakusha, atomic bombs survivors, as "Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons" to ask them to pass on their first-hand experience of the tragic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons to the world and to future generations.

Kazakhstan

[Original: Russian]
[7 June 2011]

The Republic of Kazakhstan, while supporting the speedy conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention, has also proposed the adoption of a universal declaration on a nuclear-free world. Such a declaration would help to advance the idea of a nuclear-free world and would represent a new step towards the adoption of a nuclear weapons convention and the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[2 May 2011]

Lebanon affirms the following:

- Lebanon does not possess or produce weapons of mass destruction; it complies with the United Nations resolutions in that regard and is opposed to the legality of the threat or use of such weapons;
- It welcomes and supports all initiatives aimed at bringing about general and complete disarmament, especially in the Middle East region, and emphasizes that the region should be free of weapons of mass destruction; it is apprehensive, however, about Israel's failure to adhere to international legitimacy, in view of its maintenance of a nuclear arsenal that constitutes a constant threat to all the countries of the region, and consequently to international peace and security;
- It is essential for the Arab States to continue to call for the establishment of a region free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East because that is the only available option for coping with the dangers which Israel's nuclear armament and other Israeli weapons of mass destruction represent for international peace and Arab national security;
- Attention continues to be called at the international level to the need for all the States of the region to sign the treaties on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons (including Israel);
- It is essential to unify the Arab position, step up the role of the League of Arab States and take action to acquire scientific knowledge and secure the necessary equipment for protection against weapons of mass destruction; it is also vital to continue the efforts to highlight that Israel is a State which is not a party to the international conventions;
- Lebanon calls for the introduction and development of the use of peaceful nuclear technologies in all fields that serve sustainable development and the taking into account of the various needs of the different Arab countries.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[3 June 2011]

Mexico believes that the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons remains fully in force and calls attention to the grave danger that nuclear weapons represent, and reaffirms the existence of a legal obligation of States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects.

In this connection, Mexico is strongly and steadfastly committed to international peace, disarmament and security. Accordingly, its domestic legal framework includes the following provisions:

• Political Constitution of the United Mexican States

Article 27

[...] Nuclear energy shall be used only for peaceful purposes.

Article 89

The President shall have the following powers and duties:

[...]

X. To direct foreign policy [...]. In directing foreign policy, the President shall be guided by the following normative principles: [...] the peaceful settlement of disputes; the prohibition of the threat or use of force in international relations; [...] and the effort to achieve international peace and security [...].

• Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

Article 1

1. The Contracting Parties hereby undertake to use exclusively for peaceful purposes the nuclear material and facilities which are under their jurisdiction, and to prohibit and prevent in their respective territories:

(a) The testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons, by the Parties themselves, directly or indirectly, on behalf of anyone else or in any other way, and

(b) The receipt, storage, installation, deployment and any form of possession of any nuclear weapons, directly or indirectly, by the Parties themselves, by anyone on their behalf or in any other way.

2. The Contracting Parties also undertake to refrain from engaging in, encouraging or authorizing, directly or indirectly, or in any way participating in the testing, use, manufacture, production, possession or control of any nuclear weapon.

• Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Article II

Each non-nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty undertakes not to receive the transfer from any transferor whatsoever of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or of control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly; not to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and not to seek or receive any assistance in the manufacture of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

In addition, Mexico has expressed, at the international level, its consent to be bound by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and hopes that the Treaty will soon enter into force (having ratified it in October 1999).

Article I. Basic obligations

1. Each State Party undertakes not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion, and to prohibit and prevent any such nuclear explosion at any place under its jurisdiction or control.

2. Each State Party undertakes, furthermore, to refrain from causing, encouraging, or in any way participating in the carrying out of any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.

In the framework of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, in June 2009 Mexico presented a proposed amendment to that instrument under which the use of nuclear weapons in an international armed conflict would be characterized as a war crime. This reflects Mexico's conviction that the use of such weapons constitutes, by any measure, a grave violation of international humanitarian law.

The proposal is based on a number of international treaties, General Assembly resolutions, the 8 July 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, and customary international law. The Mexican proposal is currently being considered by the Assembly of States Parties Working Group on Amendments to the Statute, established in November 2009.

In the multilateral sphere, Mexico continues to promote the commencement of substantive negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, as well as with its New Agenda Coalition partners and in the context of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.

Turkmenistan

[Original: Russian]
[27 April 2011]

Information provided pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/76 on follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

Article 6 of the Constitution of Turkmenistan (26 September 2008)

Turkmenistan, as a fully fledged member of the international community, maintains a foreign policy based on the principles of permanent neutrality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, renunciation of the use of force and of participation in military blocs and unions and promotion of the development of peaceful, friendly and mutually advantageous relations with the countries of the region and States throughout the world.

Turkmenistan recognizes the priority of the generally recognized rules of international law. If an international treaty to which Turkmenistan is a party stipulates rules different from those established in domestic legislation, those in the international treaty are applied.

Article 6 of the Constitutional Law of Turkmenistan on the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan (27 December 1995)

Turkmenistan shall not possess, produce or distribute nuclear, chemical, bacteriological or other types of weapons of mass destruction, nor shall it allow the placement on its territory of military bases of foreign States.

Foreign policy doctrine of Turkmenistan as a neutral State (27 December 1995)

Turkmenistan shall not possess, produce or distribute nuclear, chemical, bacteriological or other types of weapons of mass destruction, or help to create new types of such weapons or technologies for their production. Turkmenistan is a party to all the main international legal instruments providing guarantees for the creation of a system of collective security.

In the context of the obligations governing the international behaviour of a neutral State, Turkmenistan refuses to take sides in a conflict or to allow the placement on its territory of military bases of foreign States.

The military doctrine of an independent and permanently neutral Turkmenistan (21 January 2009)

Turkmenistan undertakes not to possess, produce, distribute or transport through its territory nuclear, chemical, biological or other types of weapons of mass destruction.

Turkmenistan is a party to the following international legal instruments on counter-terrorism:

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (New York, 15 December 1997);

Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Tokyo, 14 September 1963);

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (Montreal, 23 September 1971);

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (The Hague, 16 December 1970);

Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (Rome, 10 March 1988);

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (Rome, 10 March 1988);

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (New York, 14 December 1973);

International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (New York, 17 December 1979);

Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the

Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (Montreal, 24 February 1988);

Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (Vienna, 3 March 1980);

Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (Montreal, 1 March 1991);

International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (New York, 9 December 1999);

International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (New York, 13 April 2005);

On 20 September 2005 Turkmenistan became a party to the Amendment (Vienna, 8 July 2005) to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Venezuela

[Original: Spanish]
[18 April 2011]

In the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice issued on 8 July 1996 on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, the Court recognizes that nuclear weapons have a destructive power that cannot be contained in either space or time and that they have the potential to destroy all civilization and the entire ecosystem of the planet. It is also stated that there exists an obligation to pursue negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

Mindful of the above, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has always joined the efforts made in various multilateral forums to achieve a legally binding and verifiable instrument that prohibits the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and provides for the elimination of such weapons. Unfortunately, those efforts have been fruitless thus far. As long as certain States lack the political will to modify their national defence policies in favour of world peace and security, humanity will continue to wait for this important international treaty.